

**HIGH PRESSURE WATER CLEANING** *(Petrol motor)*

* **High pressure spray cleaning involves powerful reaction forces, repetitive movement static postures and vibration. Failure to take regular breaks may result in muscle tension/overuse and strain injuries.**
* **RISK OF INJECTION OR INJURY – Do not direct discharge stream at persons.**

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## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

◼ Repetition of movement ◼ Water pressure (reaction force) ◼ Vibration

◼ Awkward posture/ static grip ◼ Muscle fatigue (duration of activity) ◼ Noise

◼ Flammable liquids (fuel and oil) ◼ Impact from back spray (dirt and debris) ◼ Slips/trips/falls

## PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. Check all parts for any damage before use - alignment of moving parts, binding of moving parts, breakage of parts, mounting, tyres and any other conditions that may affect operation. Do NOT use if machine requires maintenance or if guards are damaged/missing. Check hoses for splits/damage regularly as constant dragging across concrete surfaces can abrade hoses. Handle steel braid hoses with caution as braid fibres can pierce the skin.
2. Use spray lances with cushioned handles and triggers that require minimum force in order to reduce fatigue by minimising vibration and easing grip pressure.
3. Do not operate the engine in a confined space where exhaust fumes can collect. Use in open, well-ventilated area only. Exhaust is hot – keep clear.
4. Obtain/read all instructions before using high pressure cleaner. Be familiar with the controls. Know how to start and stop the unit and bleed pressure quickly.
5. Caution: moving parts/high pressure/noise. Wear appropriate PPE including suitable eye and ear protection and enclosed non-slip waterproof footwear. Place safety signs in prominent areas.
6. Check immediate work area before each use for hazards. Remove all objects such as rocks, broken glass or rubbish which can be thrown up or become entangled in the machine.
7. Establish a safe exclusion zone for operation. Do NOT operate if students or others are nearby.

## OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. Use front and back grab bars to move (push) machine around the work area. Ensure tyres are correctly inflated to reduce force required to push gurney around and aide ease of movement.
2. Do not turn power on until water is flowing to machine. Maintain water pressure. If machine does not operate correctly, turn off immediately and seek help.
3. Pick up the cleaning lance and ensure it is pointing away from people or equipment. Ensure firm footing and hold the handgrip and spray lance firmly in both hands whilst in operation. Use of spray lance requires repetitive hand movements and grip in combination with reaction force.
4. When cleaning, do not direct the nozzle at people, animals, electrical components, wiring, lights, window seals etc. as pressure can damage paint work and softer items (e.g. skin, feet, tyres, window seals).
5. Stay alert and exercise control. Hold the lance strongly - high pressure cleaner jets produce a powerful reaction force. Adjust the jet to suit the type of cleaning being undertaken to control reaction force.
6. Do not operate machine when you are tired. Do not rush. Take short breaks to relax tensed muscle groups, share the task or complete it in stages to prevent strain, sprain, muscle overuse and to minimise the effects of vibration and fatigue. Alternate cleaning between high and low areas to reduce the risk of muscle overuse and back and neck strain from working above shoulder level when cleaning high objects (e.g. buildings, tall vehicles).
7. Swap grip and stance from left to right regularly to reduce muscle overuse and uneven force across the body.
8. Never leave machine running while not in use or unattended. Turn the power off. Don't leave the machine until it comes to a complete stop.

## HOUSEKEEPING

## ◼ Press the trigger to release any remaining pressure in the system. Store the handgun and spray lance in the accessory point and store the unit appropriately.

## ◼ Before cleaning, refuelling, or inspecting shut off the engine, make certain all moving parts have stopped and allow unit to cool. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the plug to prevent accidental starting.

## ◼ Always leave unit clean, dry and tidy (free from grease and debris).

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| **Date of last review** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Note: Guards or other parts that are damaged must be properly repaired or replaced by an authorised service centre
to avoid risk of personal injury.**