

**\*\*\* PLEASE GIVE THIS TO THE PERSON PICKING UP THE PRESSURE WASHER \*\*\***

## **PRESSURE WASHER INFO**

### **To Reserve It:**

Call Sallie or Karan at the PTPB office (383-3056, x105/106 respectively) **at least two weeks** prior to the date you want to assure that you' ll get it then. Our machines are reserved on a first come/first served basis, and you may call closer to the time, but there' s a good chance they will be reserved. So call A.S.A.P.

### **Before Picking It Up:**

Have a gas can with you. The pressure washers are powered by gasoline; you may need to fill it more than once while washing the house **AND you are expected to leave the tank full of gas upon returning it.**

Buy landscape fabric (minimum: 5' x25' , best 10' x50' ). See why below...

The pressure washer you' re picking up may be a heavy industrial machine (NOT light, do-it-yourselfer type). **Therefore, two people with STRONG BACKS in a van or truck should go to pick it up;** there are NO people at our office to help you load the pressure washer into your vehicle.

**Hours of pick-up and delivery MUST BE** between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, at a pre-scheduled time, or by special arrangement.

### **Where to Go:**

The pressure washers are at Associated Ministries, 1224 South I Street (corner of South 13<sup>th</sup> and I, one block up the hill from Bates) in Tacoma.

**The easiest way to get to Associated Ministries** by freeway is to take I-5 to the City Center exit and follow the spur (Hwy. 705) into downtown. Take the 15<sup>th</sup> Street exit (it' s on the LEFT), go up the 15<sup>th</sup> Street hill to I Street (it' s one block past Yakima), go right for two blocks, and Associated Ministries is on the corner of South 13<sup>th</sup> and I. (Two story brick building painted off-white)

**Before you leave with the pressure washer, make sure you know when it' s supposed to be returned.** The general rule over the weekend is to turn in on Monday morning between 9:00 & 9:30 OR make special arrangements with Sallie or Karan.

**PLEASE DO NOT TIP THE MACHINE WHILE TRANSPORTING IT, as gas can get where it shouldn' t be and ruin the engine.**

## **OVER**

**For Required Safe-work Practices Related to  
Lead-based Paint Hazard Reduction**

**Weed-block, a fine netted material** that is generally used in flower beds to prevent weeds from growing, needs to be purchased prior to pressure washing unless the home was built in 1978 or later. If you are unsure, call Sallie at 253-383-3056, x105, and she can check to see the year the home was built.

The fabric traps paint chips/flakes but allows water to pass through; not only does this protect the soil from lead contamination, but it also makes for a much cleaner job site, and you won't have volunteers on their knees picking zillions of paint flakes out of your homeowner's flower beds.

**Prior to pressure washing the house, put weed-block** on the ground (at least 5' x 25' , but better 5' x 50' , and "in the best of all possible worlds," 10' x 25 or 50' will catch MANY more paint flakes and make clean-up that much easier...).

- It should be duct-taped to the foundation of the house, and you should have something to weight it down in several places so that it doesn't fly up, move, or get tripped on.
- **For ease**, begin on the side of the house that has the least number of shrubs and plants, and then move the fabric around as you progress around the house.
- Move the weed-block carefully by picking it up rather than dragging, and **PICK UP** the ladder rather than dragging it on the fabric...

**Before you begin:** Attach hose from water source to machine and turn on water and have it running through the machine **BEFORE** you start the engine. That way the pressure washer is fully primed and you won't burn up the pump.

#### **TIPS for pressure washing:**

These industrial strength machines have 2500 pounds of pressure per square inch: that means that you could put a hole in your hand if you aimed it there... You could also put a hole in the side of the house, so **PLEASE** be careful. (You could also write your name on the side of the house...) **Marking and marring the siding can easily happen** if the wand is just a little too close, so we strongly recommend that you initially work with it while standing on the ground (not on a ladder), washing cement to get both a sense of the pressure **AND** the kick. When washing the house, start at quite a distance from the wall, and work slowly closer as you see how it's progressing.

- Work from a ladder when washing high areas; otherwise, you might get water up and under the siding (or worse yet, pop off a few shingles!).
- Stay 1 ft away from windows, doors and the phone box (& wrap it in plastic).
- The pressure washer is for **WASHING**, NOT **SCRAPING**. Scraping is later...
- When pressure washing is complete, fold the two long edges of the landscape fabric to the middle, then roll it tightly like a sleeping bag, tape with duct tape, double-bag it in heavy-duty trash bags, twist the top closed, and seal with duct tape before throwing into the garbage.

Please return the machine as soon as you are finished with it, because others will have it reserved. Coil the hoses neatly so that they are easy to store.

**DON'T FORGET** to fill it with gas when you're done!

**Last but not least, thanks for doing this.**

## Step by Step (1, 2, 3) to Operate Pressure Washer\*

1. *Before removing the pressure washer (PW) from this building*, check the crankcase oil. If it is low, fill -- we have **30 weight** motor oil here. Please don't add any oil unless you check the dipstick and you see that it needs it! (We' ve had several people add oil unnecessarily, and the machine had to go to the shop to be cleaned.)
2. While transporting the machine, make sure it doesn't tip over; if it does, right it immediately, as gasoline or oil may leak into wrong places, or in your car.
3. Lay out weed-block to catch paint flakes; duct-tape to foundation & secure outer edges.
4. At worksite put PW on a flat, level surface - it won't work properly if not level.
5. Attach high pressure hose (provided) to PW. Attach wand to hose. Attach garden hose to PW and faucet, then **open the faucet all the way**.
6. Turn on PW ignition and set the choke to closed position.
7. Pull and hold the wand trigger to release water pump pressure, and **then** pull the start cord. Once started, open the choke. Release the wand trigger.
8. Test the pressure strength and the kick on cement, not on the house or the lawn.
9. Remember this is a washer, not a scraper!
10. Start about 2 feet out from siding and move in slowly to avoid damage to siding.
11. Wash at same level you are standing or aim down on siding to avoid getting water under siding or popping shingles off.
12. If you wash mainly in front of where you are standing instead of out to the sides you minimize how far the paint flakes fly.
13. Turn off PW if idle for more than 3 minutes.
14. If you run out of gas, allow several minutes for PW to cool before refueling.
15. **When finished, turn off the PW first, and then turn off the water.**
16. Pull trigger to release pressure in hoses. Then disconnect hoses.
17. Extend high pressure hose out in straight line. Roll the hose up in loops.
18. **Please fill up the gas tank before returning it.**

\* *This page and the next two are given to people when they pick up the pressure washer.*

# *Protecting Children From Lead Poisoning...*

## **The Reason:**

If children under 6 years old are exposed to lead dust or chips, either breathing or eating (apparently it's sweet!), they may get lead poisoning and suffer brain damage. Therefore, even though there may not be children at your job site, we ask you to do the following.

## **The Ask:**

Landscape fabric should be secured to the foundation of the house you are washing in order to capture the paint flakes that will be falling. This will protect children who may play there in the future from lead poisoning and possible brain damage.

- The landscape fabric should optimally be *at least* 5 ft x 25-50 ft (preferably 10'x 25-50 ft if you're washing a 1-1/2 or 2 story home).
- Duct-tape it to the foundation, and use weights or 20 penny (4") nails, or 14 gauge aluminum wire bent like a horseshoe to temporarily fasten it to the ground.
- Start with the side of the house with the least shrubbery or foliage, in order to keep it fully intact as long as possible, and then proceed to other sides so that the last side painted is the one with the most shrubbery; if you must cut a line in the fabric in order to have it go around a trunk, cut as little as possible, and use more nails to stake the cut edges to the ground.
- Please **LIFT** the ladder rather than dragging it on the fabric...

## **When you are finished pressure washing:**

- Along the full length of the weed-block, carefully fold the outer edges in towards the middle, roll the fabric tightly, making sure the flakes don't fall on the ground, and duct-tape it so it won't open. Then put it in a heavy-duty leaf/garbage bag, twist the top closed, fold it over and duct-tape it closed, and then put it in the garbage. (The lead-based paint flakes are a health hazard to children only if inhaled or ingested; they are NOT an environmental hazard.)