

Garages

Garages - Washing and Cleaning

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What are some safety tips for washing vehicles?

- Wear safety-toe, non-slip-sole rubber boots.
- Wear hearing protection.
- Read and understand the labels ([WHMIS](#) and [consumer products](#)) and safety data sheets (SDSs) for all products used.
- Protect skin, eyes, and lungs when using solvents. Use appropriate [personal protective equipment](#) for the products being used.
- Check that solvent storage tanks and containers are correctly bonded and grounded to reduce [static electricity](#).
- Remove immediately any clothing saturated in solvents and wash skin with soap and water thoroughly.
- Watch out for burns from hot water and back blasts from water or dirt particles.
- Do not direct high-velocity streams of water on yourself or others.
- Do not use solvents to remove oil and grease from hands. Use soap and water or a waterless cleanser.

What should I know about using a portable pressure washer?

When using steam cleaners and high-pressure washers:

- Always read the instruction manual before using any equipment.

- Never spray near a power source. Electric shock may occur.
 - Use eye protection. A fast, strong spray can move objects.
 - Wear waterproof clothing, including boots.
 - Wear protective clothing to protect from burns and splatter.
 - Never direct the spray towards any person or your body. The water pressure may break or enter the skin, causing severe injury.
 - Be aware that the spray gun may cause kickback.
 - Fill or drain a fuel tank outdoors, away from sources of ignition.
 - If using gasoline-powered equipment, do not use them in an enclosed space or a building. [Carbon monoxide](#) poisoning may occur.
 - If using electric-powered equipment, make sure it is plugged into an outlet with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Do not let extension cords rest in water.
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What should I know about cleaning garage floors?

- Minimize sweeping to reduce dust. Vacuum where possible.
 - Remove accumulation of grease and oil by scraping up or shovelling the material into a disposal container.
 - Absorb the remaining oil film with non-combustible absorbent material.
 - Wash the floor with an industrial, non-volatile, biodegradable detergent solution.
 - Rinse the floor with clean water.
 - Do not use gasoline as a cleaning agent.
 - Treat the waste as having the same hazardous properties as the original chemicals or materials.
 - Dispose of all chemicals, materials, and wastes according to local environmental laws.
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