

Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS): High Pressure Cleaning

Date: 22nd May 2025

Company: Due North Gardens

Location: Hills District Sydney

Work Activity: High Pressure Cleaning of Driveways, Pavers, and House Exteriors

Plant/Equipment Used: High Pressure Cleaner (petrol/diesel/electric), Hoses, Lance, Extension Wands, PPE

Prepared by: Andrew Cottam

1. PPE Requirements

- Safety boots (non-slip)
- Long pants and long-sleeved shirt
- Safety goggles or face shield
- Hearing protection (earplugs or earmuffs)
- Gloves

2. Potential Hazards & Risk Controls

Hazard	Risk	Control Measures
High pressure water jet	Cuts, lacerations, injection injuries	Never point lance at people or animals. Maintain safe distance.
Slips and falls	Wet, slippery surfaces	Use warning signs. Wear non-slip boots. Clean up excess water. Work in manageable sections.
Noise	Hearing damage	Use hearing protection. Limit exposure time.

Electrocution (electric models)	Water and electricity	Use RCD. Inspect cables and plugs before use. Keep electrical parts dry. Do not use in heavy rain.
Chemical exposure	Irritation or burns	Follow SDS. Use correct PPE when handling detergents. Avoid skin contact.
Flying debris	Eye injury	Use goggles or face shield. Inspect surface for loose materials.
Carbon monoxide (petrol/diesel units)	Poisoning	Only use petrol/diesel cleaners outdoors in well-ventilated areas.
Manual handling	Strains or sprains	Use correct lifting techniques. Use trolleys for heavy units. Do not overreach with wand.
Damage to property	Water ingress, surface damage	Use appropriate pressure setting. Test small area first. Avoid spraying directly into gaps/cracks.

2. Emergency Procedures

****First Aid:**** First aider and kit available onsite. Call 000 in an emergency.

****Injury from jet:**** Seek immediate medical attention – injection injuries are serious.

****Chemical exposure:**** Flush with clean water for at least 15 minutes. Seek medical help.

****Electrocution:**** Do not touch person while in contact. Isolate power. Call emergency services.

****Fire (fuel-powered cleaners):**** Use appropriate extinguisher (dry powder or CO2). Evacuate if necessary.

4. Work Steps and Safe Procedures

Step	Task Description	Control Measures
1	Pre-start inspection	Check all equipment is in good condition. Inspect hose, trigger gun, fittings. Confirm pressure rating and electrical integrity (if applicable). Check fuel levels and spill kit for petrol units.
2	Site preparation	Clear area of obstacles, debris, and tripping hazards. Identify and protect sensitive surfaces, electrical points, and doors/windows from water ingress. Put out signage (e.g., "Caution – Wet Surface").
3	Set up equipment	Connect water supply and power (if electric). Ensure all connections are tight. Position pressure cleaner on flat ground. Use RCD for electric models. Keep hoses neatly arranged to prevent trips.
4	Operation	Start unit as per manufacturer's instructions. Use two hands on lance. Maintain safe distance from surface (typically 150–300mm). Start on lowest pressure and increase as needed. Work in small sections. Stop if something unexpected occurs.

5	Use of detergent (if required)	Only use approved products. Follow SDS. Apply with correct nozzle. Allow dwell time. Rinse thoroughly. Prevent runoff into stormwater drains where prohibited.
6	Shut down & clean up	Turn off equipment and water supply. Relieve pressure in hose. Disconnect and coil hoses neatly. Clean and store equipment. Remove signage after area is dry and safe. Report any issues.
7	Post-job check	Inspect area for damage, water pooling, or residue. Ensure tools and chemicals are stored safely.

5. Training and Competency

All workers using high pressure cleaners must be trained in:

- Safe operation of pressure cleaner
- Use of PPE
- Emergency response (e.g., pressure injection injury)
- Chemical handling (if used)

6. Sign-off

Name	Position	Signature	Date
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