

Do's and Don'ts When Pressure Washing *(courtesy of Mi-T-M Corp.)*

Pressure Washing Do's

- DO read your operation manual thoroughly to ensure safe operation of your pressure washer.
- DO make sure all guards and shields are in place and in good working order.
- DO check oil levels before every use.
- DO wear proper eye, face and hand protection when operating the equipment and pressure washing.
- DO attach nozzles and/or accessories completely before starting the machine.
- DO keep hands and feet clear of the cleaning nozzle at all times.
- DO consider using a detergent or accessory to increase your cleaning power and decrease your cleaning time.
- DO direct the water at a downward arc when cleaning wood substrates. Spraying head-on can damage wood siding and decks.
- DO wash a small test area prior to starting your cleaning task.
- DO pressure wash the surface thoroughly.
- DO keep the wand and water jet at least 6 feet away from electrical wires, service boxes and entrances. A shock from service wires can be deadly.

Pressure Washing Don'ts

- DON'T fill the fuel tank while the engine is running or still hot.
- DON'T leave the nozzle in a closed position for more than a minute or two while the equipment is running. The pump may overheat.
- DON'T try to repair a leak in the hose or connection while the system is under power.
- DON'T wash pressure sensitive areas without testing first. Increasing spraying distance can allow for safe washing.
- DON'T place any part of your body in front of the nozzle or point it at other people. The blast is so powerful, it can literally tear the skin off.
- DON'T hold the nozzle too close to the surface or too long in one spot - the strong jet will gouge wood, dent aluminum siding, erode stucco, and blast mortar out of joints in brick walls. Likewise, do not point the wand directly at windows, for obvious reasons.
- DON'T pressure wash from a ladder - you'll need both hands to control the wand (when you turn it on, it has a hefty kickback, which can kick you off balance). Instead, use an adjustable extension wand to reach high places.