

# How2 Guide Pressure washing - Domestic

External cleaning can be a chore for many people, especially when it involves a large area. Like any task around the house – if you have the right tools for the it can make the task easy and become a pleasurable experience.

Although one can use garden hoses and elbow grease to get the job done, it can often take a long time to complete the work – a commodity that many of us dont have in our precious spare time.

A high quality pressure washer is capable of effectively getting rid of any dirt and stains outside the house, Including :-

- The Patio
- The Drive
- Garden furniture
- Decking
- Walls and other vertical surfaces
- The Car, Motorbike, Mountain or Road Bike
- Fascias, Soffits and Conservatories



With the correct Accessory and detergent these jobs are made easy.

## How to choose the perfect machine

At Cleanstore we feel it is important to fit your machine to your premises an tasks required – With this in mind we have devised a useful guide as to a machines suitability.

Suitable upto:	
	<b>4 Bed 2 Cars Patio &amp; drive</b>
 2 Cars	<b>4x month</b>
 Patio & drive	<b>4x year</b>
Surface Cleaned in 30 mins (m <sup>2</sup> ) with vario lance	<b>20</b>
Surface Cleaned in 30 mins (m <sup>2</sup> ) with T-Racer	<b>40</b>

*Here we suggest that a machine would be suitable for a 4 Bedroom house, with 2 cars to clean once a week with the relevant sized patios and driveways being cleaned 4 times per year*

*These are likely performance figures for 2 of the key Accessories*

## What is a Domestic Pressure Washer?

There are three main types of pressure washers – Domestic, Commercial and Industrial. As the name implies, a Domestic pressure washer is suitable for domestic use at home, to clean the car, or clean small premises.

Please note however a gardener or Handyman employed to do these jobs on behalf of the Homeowner using the machine on a daily basis should purchase a Commercial machine to be covered by the Manufacturers warranty.

People can use a domestic pressure washer to clean their vehicles, driveway, patio, and also garden furniture. Since there are many types of domestic pressure washers on the market, buyers should know how the equipment works and what factors influence the machine's performance.

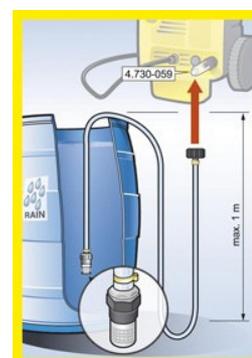
## How a Domestic Pressure Washer Works

Buying a pressure washer is a wise investment since it is a very efficient machine. It uses up only a small amount of water to produce a high pressure water jet - The average UK tap pressure is 4-5 bar, so with most Domestic Pressure washers producing up to 140 bar pressure you should be aware of the Water and Electric requirements involved.

## Water

Turn on the tap water when you have connected your garden hose to your pressure washer using a garden push fit connector – Hoselock or similar, you should do this before turning on your machine to avoid damage to your pump.

The water can be sourced from the garden tap, a water butt, a pond or any other suitable mobile container – If that is your choice please ensure you purchase a machine that will use a water suction hose.



## Mains Power

Most new pressure washers are fitted with a mains power connection of about 5 Metres – This combined with your high pressure hose should give you a good working range.

Should you wish to extend the Mains cable then you should ensure the correct quality of extension should be used :-

Up to 10 metres a 1.5 mm core cable can be used and to avoid potentially damaging Voltage drop and cable heating - anything 11 metres to 30 metres should be 2.5 mm core cable – you may need to get this specially made.



## Buying a Domestic Pressure Washer

### Features to Look Out For in a Domestic Pressure Washer

Domestic pressure washers nowadays come with various features. Although one might feel tempted to get a pressure washer with as many features as possible, it is important to choose only features that are necessary. After all, extra features usually come with an extra cost.

#### Motor Type

- Water Cooled Induction Motor
- Universal Air Cooled Motor
- Induction Motor



### What are the Differences between an Induction, Universal Motor and Water-cooled Motor?

**Universal motors** are high revving motors, they have carbon brushes that will eventually need replacing.

The upside is they are far cheaper to produce and as long as they are for infrequent or short use that is fine.

**Induction motors** do not have carbon brushes and are more of an industrial type motor making them more robust. A good way of knowing what motor the machine you are looking at has, is by the weight of the machine, as induction motors weigh a lot more than universal motors, also universal motors are noisier than the induction motor.

In short, an induction motor will last longer as there are no brushes to wear out. If the brush on a motor fails this will lead to complete failure of the motor.



**Water-cooled induction.** Again this is brushless so the motor is far less likely to fail. Instead of the wire windings found in the induction motor to cool the unit, The their new Induction motor Karcher have surrounded the motor with a water jacket via the inbound water from your garden hose, this therefore cools the motor making it cost less to run.

## Accessories and Attachments

Most domestic pressure washers are perfectly capable of cleaning any surface. However, buyers can choose to get a pressure washer with some accessories that can make their work easier.

One common accessory is the car wash brush, which users can attach to the end of the pressure washer hose. Users can also find extension wands if they wish to clean a high area, or a special high pressure nozzle attachment to increase the water pressure and thus, cleaning power.



Many pressure washers have quick connector attachments to make it easy for users to connect other accessories to the machines.

## Detergents

Since many cleaning jobs require chemical detergents, users should consider how that chemical is stored / delivered on the machine.

1. Built in detergent tank
2. Chemical suction hose ( chemical bottle independent to machine )
3. Foaming Gun Bottle ( attaches to the Gun )
4. Plug in detergent cassette
5. Chemical Pouch



Users can fill the bottle with a detergent and the machine will release some amount of it with the water when low pressure setting is selected. Many different detergents can be used with a pressure washer, but not all surfaces can be cleaned with any detergent. In any case, buyers should remember to check the instructions for the machine regarding detergents that can be used.

- Car Shampoo
- Car Wash & Wax
- Universal Cleaner
- Stone and Facade cleaner
- Wood and Deck cleaner
- Plastic Cleaner



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