



CHOOSING A PRESSURE WASHER

When it comes to choosing the correct pressure washer, the decision ultimately depends on the nature of your project. Surface size, cleaning location and frequency of use are a few of the things that should be considered when determining which type of pressure washer is right for you.

I. Type

Gas Pressure Washers - Gas pressure washers offer high power with increased mobility. These units are capable of handling the toughest jobs and will help you complete large projects faster than an electric unit.

Pros: high power; mobility

Cons: noise, weight, exhaust emissions, maintenance requirements, cost

Electric Pressure Washers - Electric pressure washers are typically good for small to medium sized projects. With a wide variety of designs, ranging from small handheld units to larger cart-style units, these pressure washers offer a convenient and affordable alternative to large gas-powered pressure washers.

Pros: size, light weight; low noise, instant start; low maintenance, low cost; no exhaust emissions

Cons: lower power, requires nearby electrical outlet

II. Power

Understanding how pressure washers are rated for their performance is key to selecting a pressure washer that is right for you. Pounds per square inch, (PSI) and gallons per minute (GPM) are two of the most common measurements used by manufacturer's to advertise the performance characteristics of a unit.

	Light Duty	Medium Duty	Heavy Duty
Pressure Range (PSI)	Up to 1,900	1,900 to 3,000	3,000 or more
Water Flow (GPM)	1.2 – 1.9	1.9 – 2.6	2.6 – 5.0
Typical Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patio Furniture • Grills • Cars • Boats • Windows • Fencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patio Furniture • Grills • Cars • Boats • Windows • Fencing • Decks • Paint Prep • Driveways & Sidewalks • Siding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decks • Paint Prep • Driveways & Sidewalks • Siding • Construction Equipment

III. Features

When selecting a pressure washer, you may want to consider a unit that includes one or more of the following options and features:

- For electric pressure washers, ensure the unit you are selecting has a built in ground fault interrupter. This will help keep the operator safe from electrical hazards.
- Most units are sold with various tips and nozzles. Be sure these accessories match the projects you plan to complete with the unit.
- If you plan to frequently switch between different types of tips and nozzles, consider a pressure washer that includes a quick-connect coupling system or includes a nozzle with an adjustable spray pattern. This will improve your productivity and help speed up your project.
- If you plan to use a detergent or soap for your project, look for a unit that has the ability to automatically mix in soap. This will simplify the dilution process of the detergent or soap and reduce the overall time of your project.
- Variable pressure can be an important feature, particularly for higher PSI pressure washers. The added variability will help protect surfaces from damage.
- If your project requires a larger pressure washer that will be transported across different types of terrain, consider purchasing a unit with larger and more aggressive wheels. This will ensure better traction when moving the unit to and from the jobsite.
- When purchasing a pressure washer, consider the advantages of purchasing from a member of PWMA. Members are dedicated to product standards and accurate performance ratings.