

Power washing preserves paint job

BY READER'S DIGEST BOOKS
FOR AP SPECIAL FEATURES

Power washing your house every year with a high-pressure water spray can not only keep it looking good but can cut the need to repaint as often.

Power washing aluminum, steel, vinyl or wood siding removes grit that grinds away the surface like sandpaper when it's agitated by wind or rain. Power washing is also a good way to prepare a house's surface for repainting. If you're lucky, once the siding is clean you may find that you don't need to paint after all.

If your house does need repainting, a thorough power washing removes not only dirt, mildew and moss but also peeling, flaking and chalking paint. You can easily wash even a large house in a single day.

Power washers are available for rent, usually by the day, from tool rental stores and some paint specialty stores. Make sure someone demonstrates how

the equipment works and answers all your questions before you leave the store with the washer.

Power washers are rated by the pressure of their spray, measured in pounds per square inch (psi). For the average house, a rating from 1,200 to 2,500 psi, compared to about 80 psi for a garden hose, is sufficient. Less than 1,200 psi won't do the job effectively, and more than 2,500 psi could do damage if not handled skillfully.

Power washing with clear water usually does the trick. But to remove chalking, moss or mildew, you'll probably need a general cleaning agent, available where you rent the equipment.

Nozzle design and spray width are important. The recommended nozzle sizes are 15, 25 and 40 degrees with the 15- and 25-degree nozzles the ones that achieve the best results.

Power wash from the bottom up, to prevent dirt and the cleaning agent

from running down onto the unwashed surface and leaving streaks. Rinse from the top down, to wash away the cleaning agent and dirt thoroughly and avoid leaving streaks on the clean surface.

Here are some more tips:
■ Always wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from splashback or accidental direct spray.

■ Make sure all windows are closed tightly.

■ Turn off the power to light fixtures and electrical outlets at your home's

main service panel. Cover them with plastic bags or film secured with duct tape.

■ Place drop cloths over plants and shrubs. Move lawn furniture away.

■ If it's windy, don't wash.
■ Keep the nozzle 10 to 12 inches from the surface, at about a 45-degree angle.

■ Use extra caution when cleaning aluminum or steel siding. A power washer can bend sections - even blow them right off the house.

Club schedules fall festival

The Clawson Ladybug Garden Club, a branch of Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, will have its fall festival 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Clawson Historical Museum, 41 Fisher Court.

The Ladybug Club will offer plants,

baked goods, fall crafts and a raffle in the back yard of the museum. In case of rain, the sale will be in the museum basement.

For more information, call (810) 436-0642 or (810) 435-5488.



Learn how to decorate for holidays

Getting your house ready for the holidays just got easier with a lineup of home decorating sewing classes at Haberman Fabrics, 117 W. Fourth in Royal Oak.

Pre-registration is required. Call (810) 541-0010 for information.

Scheduled classes are:

■ Simple Upholstery, Dining Room Chairs, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26. Sewers and non-sewers will strip, repad and recover the seat of a dining room chair. No sewing experience is required. Cost is \$15.

■ Two-way Table Runner, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 8 and 15. Create a table runner that serves as a runner and place mats for four and can be made reversible. Cost is \$20.

■ Holiday Home and Gift Workshop, six different one-day projects that are easy to make for yourself and for everyone on your holiday gift list. See samples at Haberman Fabrics. Cost is \$15 each.

The projects and dates (all Saturdays) are: trio of no-sew pillows, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 2; easy, one-piece floor pillow, 2-5 p.m. Nov. 2; reversible rolled bolter, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 9; tasseled and trimmed table runner, 2-5 p.m. Nov. 9; elegant throw, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 16; and easy, miter-bordered place mats, 2-5 p.m. Nov. 16.

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