

House Washing

A Look Behind The Scenes



Peter's House Washing Service

The 7 reasons to have your home pressure cleaned

Answering your questions about house washing

How do I know it's time to pressure wash my home?

Can ANY house be pressure cleaned?

Besides house washing ... what else can be pressure cleaned?

Is it true that house washing adds value to my home?

Exterior House Cleaning Sydney

by Peter's House Washing Service

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The 7 reasons to have your home pressure cleaned ...

1. It's never been professionally cleaned before and it starting to show.
2. Your homes exterior is showing signs of years of wear and tear with built up dirt.
3. Your home is on busy road which impacts on the exterior of your home ... every day.
4. You are preparing to paint or spruce up the exterior of your home.
5. You want to remove exterior mould or mildew for the health and safety of your family.
6. You are selling your home and you want to add to its immediate street appeal.
7. You don't have enough TIME ... yet you want your home to have an instant facelift.



Answering your questions about house washing ...



What is house washing?

House washing or pressure cleaning is one of the quickest and most cost effective ways to keep your house looking like NEW. House washing removes all the dirt that can grind away at your weatherboards or cladding.

Also any built up of mould, mildew and algae can also be pressure washed away in a fraction of the time it would take to scrub it away by hand.

Pressure washing allows a user to apply a strong force of water pressure to a surface in order to get it clean. A pressure washer is commonly used on outdoor surfaces, such as the exterior of a building or on a sidewalk.

There are a number of benefits to this type of pressure cleaning.

Ease of cleaning

In normal cleaning, you have to scrub the surface to loosen and remove debris. Applying what is colloquially called "elbow grease" to a cleaning project, especially on a large outdoor surface like a driveway, could be difficult and time consuming.

Pressure washing allows you to stand up straight and simply apply the force of the water to the surface--no extra effort is required. It is also fairly easy to set up a pressure washer. All you have to do is connect a water hose to the unit, plug it in or insert fuel into the power source, and start spraying.

Time savings

When you pressure wash your surfaces, there is also a significant time savings as compared to regular cleaning methods. You save the time it takes to prepare a cleaning solution and meticulously scrub the area down.

You also save time (and preserve safety) because you do not have to get on a ladder or manoeuvre to reach areas that are high above the ground, like the siding of a home. You can simply point the pressure washing sprayer upward to get the surface clean.

Environmental benefits

When you use a pressure washer, you do not necessarily have to use a cleaning solution in order to get the job done (unless you have a very tough job to take care of). The force of the water that is emitted by the pressure washing tool is enough to remove most dirt from a surface.

As a result, the toxic chemicals present in many cleaning solutions do not run down into storm water drains and the streets or into your lawn. This helps reduce the toxins that are present in the environment.

How do I know it's time to pressure wash my home?

Generally cleaning is recommended every two years or as needed. Whether your home is brick, timber or any other building material -- they can all benefit from a thorough washing.

House washing or pressure cleaning is also an ideal way to prepare the surface before you paint the exterior of your home.



Can ANY house be pressure cleaned?

Yes! With these 2 exceptions ...

1. Pressure cleaning is not advisable for any area that has obvious deteriorating wood.
2. You don't want to pressure wash if you suspect that your house has been painted with LEAD paint.

Typically these were homes that were painted prior to 1978.

Paints containing high levels of lead were used in many Australian houses. Exposure to lead is a health hazard. Even small amounts of dust or chips of paint containing lead, generated during minor home repairs, can be a health risk.

Anyone painting a house or doing maintenance that could disturb paint containing lead should avoid exposing themselves and their families, neighbours or pets to its hazards.

The recommended amount of lead in domestic paint has declined from 50% before 1965, to 1% in 1965. In 1992, it was reduced to 0.25%, and in 1997 it was further reduced to 0.1%.

The dangers of lead in house paints

Lead in house paint is a problem only if it is damaged or disturbed. Paint in good condition that is not flaking or chalking, or is covered by well maintained lead free paint is not a hazard in itself.

Lead can also be a hazard when it is on surfaces subject to friction or impact such as windows and doors, or on railings where children can chew it. High concentrations of lead found in garden soils in older residential areas can be due to residue from lead-based paint.

Lead-based paint is most likely to be found on window frames, doors, skirting boards, kitchen and bathroom cupboards, exterior walls, gutters, metal surfaces and fascias. It can also be found on interior walls, ceilings and areas with enamel paint.

Pink and red primer both contain lead, so you should think twice before disturbing any surface which has had any of these paints applied.

People renovating their houses are in the most danger

Home renovators can create lead hazards without realising it. If old paint is not handled properly, lead dust and paint chips can remain in the home or on the garden years after the work is completed.

Paint removal by blasting, burning, dry scraping, dry sanding and using power tools creates the most serious dangers because the particles are small enough to be inhaled or deposited in furnishings or carpet, making complete removal extremely difficult.

Peter's House Washing Service recommends only soft washing your home - not pressure cleaned - if your home was painted prior to 1978.



What other nasties can house washing remove from the exterior of my home?

Mould, Mildew and Algae.



EPA estimates indicate 50 to 100 common indoor mould types have the potential for creating health problems.

Autumn means moulds are out in full force. Outdoor moulds thrive in gutters, soil, rotten wood and fallen leaves. Damp weather promotes indoor mould growth as well.

Check bathrooms, kitchens, basements, carpets and houseplants for mould growth. Allergic reactions may be heightened by the airborne spores moulds produce.

Moulds, mildew and fungi are present everywhere...inside and outside. Furniture, carpet, books, even the air we breathe is full of spores. Humid, dark places with little air circulation promote the rapid growth of these fungi.

Hidden Dangers

Eating, relaxing and sleeping in a home full of allergy antagonists like mould, mildew and fungus presents your body with additional challenges which may lead to a worsening of your symptoms.

Over 50 moulds are considered problematic, including *Stachybotrys*, more commonly known as "black mould". Pulmonary hemosiderosis has been linked to toxic mould exposure by the CDC. Mould can grow behind walls and even dead moulds can make you sick.

Mould can be found in homes, hospitals, schools and office buildings and may not be easily noticeable. All parts of the country are affected by mould and areas where moisture or heavy rain prevails, are more susceptible to mould, mildew and fungal growth.

Mould Causes and Symptoms

Moulds typically grow in buildings affected by water damage and are a potential cause of many health problems including asthma, sinusitis, and infections. People sensitive to moulds are particularly uncomfortable on cloudy, rainy, damp days.

Moulds may also play a major role in cases of sick building syndrome and related illnesses. Allergic reactions can be caused by moulds. The most reliable physical findings of mould allergy are dyshidrotic eczema, accompanied by tiny blisters on the palms of the hands. Other symptoms are nummular eczema that looks like ringworm.

Besides house washing ... what else can be pressure cleaned?

- **Cars**
- Boats
- **Trailers**
- Fences
- **Roofs**
- Concrete
- **Driveways**
- Pathways
- **Shade Sails**
- Tennis courts
- **Timber decking**
- Canvas blinds
- **Roller Shutters**
- Retaining walls
- **Pebble Crete**
- Carports
- **Caravans**



What about water restrictions when house washing?

Pete's House Washing Services are exempt from water restrictions.

Is it true that house washing may add value to my home?



Yes, especially if you're selling your home or investment property. House washing will give your residential or commercial property a facelift. Lifting the premises immediate street appeal ... making your property that much more desirable to a buyer.

The 7 simple steps to prepare your home for house washing or pressure cleaning

1. Turn off the electricity to open outlets.
2. Close all doors and windows tightly.
3. Cover delicate light fixtures with plastic and tape.
4. Remove hanging ornaments from any exterior surface.
5. Cover or remove outdoor furniture or objects around your home.
6. Trim any scrubs that are touching or near any exterior area of your home.



7. **Call Peter's House Washing Services on 0410 630 443.**

House washing is one of the best ways to give your house a facelift from a hose ... that keeps your home looking fresh and beautiful -- longer.

Resources:

Peter's House Washing Service:

Website: <http://exteriorhousecleaningsydney.com/>

Phone: 0410 630 443

Australian Government Resources:

Website: www.environment.gov.au

USA Government Resources:

Website: www.betterhealthusa.com

Authority Websites:

Website: www.ehow.com

To arrange to have your home professionally house washed contact Peter here:

<http://exteriorhousecleaningsydney.com/contact-us/>

or simply call **0410 630 443**