A consistently high standard of cleaning and disinfection (C&D) is an effective way to break the on-farm cycle of re-infection with infectious diseases. Using a pressure washer reduces water usage and enables efficient and effective cleaning of buildings and equipment, especially when combined with other cleaning products, such as detergent or disinfectant solutions.

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Pre-use check

- Remove animals and any remaining feed and sweep up any large debris from the area to be pressure washed
- Dismantle any movable equipment such as hoppers and remove from the area
- Cover any electrical equipment that cannot be removed, such as sockets, meters, fan units, lighting fixtures and isolate the electrics
- Close all nearby windows and doors
- Set up barriers and warning signs as necessary

You must understand the operating instructions, precautions and safety measures, before attempting to operate the pressure washer

Preparation

- Put on the necessary protective clothing
- Make up any detergent or disinfectant solutions in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions
- Place the pressure washer on a stable surface
- Check the pressure washer and attachments for any signs of damage, wear and tear as connecting up the hoses and water supply
- Replace any damaged or worn parts before starting to use the pressure washer
- Straighten any kinks in the hoses
- Add the detergent to the chemical reservoir as directed by the manufacturer
- Connect and turn on the water supply before running the power washer
- Keep the high-pressure hose connected to both the pump and the spray gun at all times while the system is pressurised
Outline of work

Follow the 5 basic steps of cleaning and disinfection as outlined in Action for Productivity No 10.

- Maintain a stable stance, firmly grasping the spray gun with both hands, pointing the spray gun away from the body at all times when the pressure washer is switched on.
- Adjust the pressure as required by adjusting the distance, spray pattern or adjustable pressure regulator if appropriate.
- Use an extension lance to pressure wash high areas.
- Apply water/detergent mix for soaking at low pressure (eg 300 psi), using a wide spray pattern.
- Allow to soak for at least 30 minutes, but do not allow the surfaces to dry out.
- Empty the chemical reservoir and take up pipe and flush with clean water.
- After soaking, wash the area and any remaining washable equipment at high pressure (eg 500 psi), preferably using hot water.
- Start pressure washing from the top and work downwards, ie ceilings ➔ walls ➔ floor and from one end of the area or room to the opposite end.
- Wash out any accumulations of dirt that may build up on ledges, in corners, on slats and brush out where necessary.
- Fill the chemical reservoir with disinfectant at the recommended dilution rate.
- After washing, apply appropriate disinfectant through the pressure washer in accordance with manufacturer recommendations using cold water.
- Apply the disinfectant evenly and thoroughly using low pressure and a wide spray pattern.

When shutting down the pressure washer, remember to:

- Turn off the water supply and power, and then press the trigger on the spray gun to relieve the pressure trapped within the system.
- Disconnect all hoses and attachments checking for signs of wear and tear. Ensure any damaged or worn parts are repaired or replaced before next use.
- Store the pressure washer and attachments in a cool, dry place.
- Rinse the protective equipment used with clean water.

Remember the high pressure stream of water can cause serious injury and damage.

Precautions

- Do not spray directly at electrical wiring, power sources, windows, glass or fragile objects.
- Avoid using a pressure washer from a ladder, scaffolding, or any other unstable position.
- Never aim the nozzle at yourself, other people or animals at any time or allow children to operate the pressure washer.
- Do not secure the trigger in the open position or leave the pressure washer unattended while it is running.

Maintenance

- Maintain the equipment in effective and efficient working order as per the manufacturers recommendations.
- Keep a maintenance log.
- Do not use the pressure washer if any parts need repair or replacement.

Reference documents

Action for Productivity No 10
Cleaning and Disinfection

www.bpex.org.uk