

Overcoming the Challenges of Fleet Washing

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Courtesy of Ronmie Gilliam,
Precision Power Wash, Utica, IN

Washing a fleet of trucks can be difficult, expensive and time consuming. But fleet washing is necessary for all businesses that rely on trucks to keep sales going.

Nevertheless, fleet washing can

be extra challenging when dealing with multiple large fleets. Fleet washing can also damage the local environment if the right products and processes are not used. To fully address your fleet washing needs, you need to analyze how your company handles washing trucks and make sure it's as efficient and economical as possible. For starters, let's look at the unique challenges of fleet washing, as well as the reasons to consider leaving the job to a professional power washing company.

Challenges of Fleet Pressure Washing

Difficulty. Washing a truck and trailer, let alone an entire fleet, is a difficult task. A thorough job requires getting into every nook and cranny and washing the dirtier areas where needed. But this is harder than it sounds. A fleet washing specialist needs to be in good shape. To clean more than a few trucks in a timely manner, you generally need two to three helping hands.

Expense. Handling pressure washing for trucks in-house, rather than using a professional power washing company, can be expensive. You have to factor in employee costs, cleaning costs, tool maintenance and the water bill. Employee injury can also be a liability if cleaning materials or equipment are not handled properly.

Time commitment. Washing one truck and trailer can take anywhere from seven to 30 minutes or more. Anything quicker is almost always just a minimal wash and rinse – in other words, a rush job. The time needed to wash an entire fleet can add up quickly, and ultimately it can slow down overall

truck flow and delivery.

Environmental concerns. If done improperly, pressure washing trucks has a negative impact on the environment. Chemical agents and soaps used during fleet washing can drain into nearby sewers and contaminate local water sources. Moreover, grease, oil, heavy metals and other byproducts also drain off. Finally, haphazard pressure washing can also waste a lot of water and damage nearby foliage.

Benefits of Professional Power Washing

Expertise. While fleet washing can be difficult, experienced professional washers have it down to an art form. This includes knowing which tools are best for the job and which methods are most efficient given the situation and degree of dirt and grime.

Cost savings. For just one truck, it's not hard to find a cheap truck washing service or do-it-yourself station, but when washing an entire fleet, you can really save by going with a professional power washing company. Rather than pay in-house expenses or per truck fees at a generic truck washing service, use a provider that specializes in fleet pressure washing and offers fleet discounts.

Earth friendly. In order to avoid damage to the environment (and possible fines), go with a professional power washing company that practices green cleaning techniques. Among other things, this means they use biodegradable cleaning solutions and proper wastewater collection and disposal. Avoid companies that advertise super-low cleaning costs – this is almost a sure sign they use bottom-shelf, non-biodegradable cleaning products.

Quick and mobile. One main benefit you get by going with a professional power washing company is speed and mobility. Service professionals can wash a fleet of trucks faster and more efficiently than most in-house employees.

Within the trucking industry, timeliness is a huge concern, as companies must maximize shipment efficiency and meet scheduled arrival times. Time spent off the road for fleet cleaning is time lost on the road. It's important to maximize your fleet washing routine so it can be as quick and efficient as possible.