

# Power Washing Myths

## DEBUNKED

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Common misconceptions plague many professions, and professional power washing is no exception. Ask any power wash company – the myths listed below are not unusual beliefs for consumers to sustain. By being familiar with the truth behind these fallacies, you can best understand the confusion when customers call in a professional power washing service.



**I can do it myself – after all, I’m no stranger to power washing.**

Service professionals really are experts; their level of professional power washing experience prepares them to tackle any cleaning job in your home or business without causing damage. That’s the main difference between an amateur and a professional power wash company – the pros know how to get the job done without damaging property or causing injury.

Year after year, homeowners are seriously hurt when they assume they can power wash without outside assistance. For instance, many people lean ladders against their homes to clean the upper stretches of exterior siding, only to suffer serious injury when the power of their pressure washers surprises them, causing terrifying falls. If the setup for a certain job seems precarious or otherwise unsafe, don’t hesitate to call a professional power washing service. Otherwise, you could end up in the hospital.

You should also call in a power wash company if you’re unfamiliar with the best power washing techniques for the surface at hand. Too often, homeowners assume that all power washing projects are the same and require the same amount of pressure. If you follow this myth, you could cause serious damage to your home. For instance, too much pressure can blow the granules clear off asphalt roof shingles, greatly decreasing the life of the roof.

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**All you need to clean is high pressure – and I have that with my equipment for power washing.**

Service experts certainly value the cleaning power of high pressure equipment, but they also recognize that lower pressures may work better in certain situations. For instance, when pressure washing siding, one must be careful not to use extremely high pressure. Otherwise, water could be forced behind the siding, fostering the growth of harmful mold and mildew.

Cleaning solutions and temperature are valuable allies in limiting the pressure used in such situations. Professional power washing experts use potent cleaning solutions to aid in their cleaning projects; the most progressive among them stick to earth-friendly, non-toxic cleaners. Greasy, oily stains often won't lift away without specialized pressure washing mixtures.

Furthermore, professional-grade power washers are often equipped to spray heated water, which also helps remove grime while regulating pressure levels.



**The lowest price is always best when it comes to power washing.**

Unaware that there are quality differences between power washing companies, many consumers suppose that the service that advertises the lowest price is the best option. Unfortunately, these homeowners often find that the service attendant tacks on surcharges, driving up the price. Call it "bait and switch" selling, commissioned sales or upselling – the bottom line is that many unscrupulous power washing services advertise one price with the sole intention of jacking up that figure once they've

completed a project.

Alternatively, a certain power washing company may be inexperienced or unsuccessful, so they offer a dirt-low price and are then forced to take shortcuts in order to turn a profit.



**Every power washing service should be able to give quotes over the phone.**

Certainly, a power wash company should be able to give a ballpark estimate over the phone, assuming you provide a thorough description of the project at hand. However, a detailed estimate requires an on-site visit. With a little research, you should be able to find a power washing service that provides complimentary in-person estimates. That way, you can rest assured that the quoted price will actually be your final price.

**Since power washing involves mainly water, it's always safe for the environment.**



Especially if you don't use cleaning solutions, it may seem like power washing is a fairly innocuous operation. After all, how could pure water hurt the environment? The thing many consumers fail to take into account is the pollution washed away by power washing. For instance, power washing an RV will invariably wash away heavy metals. RVs and other vehicles pick up these toxic metals while on the road. If deposited into the water table, these and other substances can be deadly for wildlife.

Fortunately, many power washing companies now practice eco-friendly wastewater management; they collect and process their wastewater, thereby preventing pollutants from tainting local watersheds.