

Because serious damage can be caused by improper pressure washing procedures it is General Shale's policy not to recommend it for cleaning brick masonry. This applies to all types of projects but is most important on residential jobs where experienced pressure washing personnel may not be available.

Many of today's brick are coated for color and texture effects and these coatings may be as subject to abrasive removal as the mortar smears on the brick face. DO NOT use a pressure washer on this type of brick – brick manufacturer's generic terms for this type of brick include *Sand Faced Brick, Lime Faced Brick, Slurry Brick, and Molded Brick.*

If pressure wash cleaning methods are used it is strongly suggested that a test be performed on a disposable panel or non-critical wall area to ensure the cleaning method is compatible with the brick.

Additional brick cleaning information and guidelines for pressure washing methods can be found in the BIA (Brick Institute of America) Technical Note Number 20. The following guidelines also provide some information which may be helpful.

**General Shale disclaims any and all responsibility for damages resulting from cleaning methods and materials.**

### **General Guidelines and Specifications**

- Use a moderate pressure 400-800 psi
- Use a 25° to 35° fan tail nozzle
- Use an average flow rate of 4 gallons per minute
- Move wand in a horizontal motion
- Maintain a consistent distance (6" to 8") of nozzle from wall surface
- Ideal cleaning times
  - After initial mortar set up to a max - 21 days after brick is laid (Type N)
  - After initial mortar set up to a max - 18 days after brick is laid (Type S)
- Apply cleaning solution with low pressure (40 psi max)

### **Removal of Excess Mortar**

- Use a wooden paddle or other objects that will not mar the brick
- Do not use metal scrappers. This may leave shavings which could create stains
- Do not use your pressure washer to remove large mortar particles. This can result in scaring the face of the brick.

### **Pre-Wetting**

- Pre-wetting prior to cleaning is one of the most important steps in the cleaning process.
- A saturated wall will not absorb contaminants or allow chemicals to dry on the surface.
- Improper pre-wetting is one of the major causes of masonry stains

### **Application of Cleaning Solution**

- Do not apply cleaners with high pressure. This will drive the cleaning solution deep into the substrate causing staining.
- Apply cleaning solutions with low pressure sprayer. Max 40 PSI
- Allow the cleaning solution to dwell for 3 to 5 minutes before removal.

### **Removal of Cleaning Solution**

- Remember use 25° to 35° fan tail tip nozzle.
- Keep the wand 6” to 8” from substrate.
- Work in a horizontal motion (No Figure Eight's)
- Keep wand at same distance to substrate
- **RINSE WALL THOROUGHLY!**

### **Steps in Pressure Washing**

1. Perform test cleaning on a panel or non-critical wall area.
2. Provide protection for personnel and adjacent areas from pressure spray and chemical damage.
3. Remove excess mortar.
4. Pre-Wet wall.
5. Apply Cleaning Solution.
6. Remove cleaning solution and pressure rise.
7. Thoroughly rise wall.

### **Pressure Washing Don't Ever's**

- Don't use zero degree nozzles
- Don't use pressure washer to remove large particles of mortar
- Don't wash your hands with a pressure washer
- Don't use a figure eight motion
- Don't write words on the wall with a pressure washer
- Don't pressure wash sensitive brick