High Pressure Cleaner

Business Name:	ABN:	
Business Address:		
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:

THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a RISK ASSESSMENT is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:

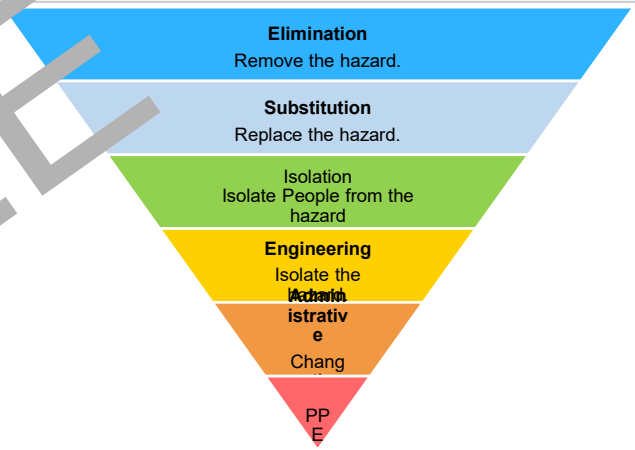
CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Date Risk Assessment supplied to Project Manager:	

RISK MATRIX

LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE		
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Rev before work
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACU	2M MO RATE	Ensure control measures in place.
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 H	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.

HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS



Risk Rating & Required Action:

4A	Stop work. The risk is intolerable. E inate the hazar redesign the activity before proceeding. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or hi er-level authorisati is required.
3H	Review and approve additional c rols b ask arts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.
2M	Ensure all nominated controls are in ace and effe ive. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.
1L	Proceed, following standard operating procedures Monitor and keep records.

Consequence Scale:

Consequence	People (injury/illness)	Project / Assets	Compliance / Reputation
Catastrophic	Fatality or permanent total disability	project shutdown	Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution
Major	Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days)	critical delay	Improvement notice; major media coverage
Moderate	Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day	moderate delay	Minor breach; adverse client comment
Minor	First-aid only, no lost time	negligible delay	Isolated non-conformance
Insignificant	No injury	no schedule impact	Deviation caught and corrected on site

Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:
Remember to apply controls in the preferred order shown by the coloured pyramid:

1. **Eliminate**
2. Substitute
3. Isolate
4. Engineering
5. Administrative
6. PPE

Always document **why** a lower-order control is accepted if elimination or substitution is not reasonably practicable.

aligned with Safe Work Australia's Managing the risk of fatigue at work *(2023) and ISO 45001:2018 clauses 6–8.*

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
1. Governance, Legal Compliance and WHS Consultation	• Failure to identify and comply with WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulations relating to high pressure water jetting, plant and hazardous chemicals • Lack of clear organisational WHS policy and safety objectives specific to high pressure cleaning and ultra-high pressure water-blasting • Inadequate consultation with workers and Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) regarding high pressure cleaning risks in carparks, pathways, external walls and hard surfaces • No formal process to review serious incidents, near misses or regulator alerts involving high pressure cleaners, hot water blasters and street cleaners • Poor integration of WHS risk controls into business management systems, contracts and procurement decisions • Inadequate change management whe introducing new high p equipment, detergen , or demolition techniques	High	• Establish and maintain a WHS management system at explicitly addresses risks associated with high pressure cleaners, hot water blasters and ultra hig pressure concrete demolition, aligned with the WHS Act 2011 and relevant Codes of Practice (e.g. Managing Risks of Plant in the Workplace) • Develop a written high pressure water jett / pressur eaning policy endorsed by senior management that defines responsibilities, minimum compe cy re irements, and mandatory controls for all pressure washing activities • Implement a formal risk ma ement procedure (entify ess, control, review) for all pressure washing operations, including c arks, pathways, walls, tiles, street cleaning and demolition-type wat ing • Consult with kers and SRs on proposed changes to equipment, work methods and chemicals for high pressur eaning, doc menting cesses and agreed control measures • Ens legal a tech al requirements (Australian Standards, manufacturer instructions, regulator guida e are ide d, regularly reviewed and incorporated into safe systems of work and procedures • Estab h a rocess report, investigate and review all incidents, near misses and non-conformances involvin high essure quipment, with actions tracked to completion and shared with relevant teams • ply a ormal anagement of change process for new or modified equipment (e.g. hot jet street clea ers, higher pressure units, new hose types or accessories), including WHS review, consultation, aining trial • egrate WHS requirements for high pressure cleaning into contractor management, site access rules and client agreements, including minimum safety standards and right-of-refusal where safe systems are not in place • Schedule periodic management review of the high pressure cleaning risk profile, incident trends, and effectiveness of controls, with documented outcomes and improvement actions	Medium
2. Procurement, Design and Selection of Equipment	• Procurement of high pressure cleaners, hot water blaste s and ra high pressure water-blasti units that are not fit for purpose or non-compliant with Australian Standards • Selection of petrol-powered pressure washers and hot jet street cleaners without considering ventilation, exhaust emissions and ignition sources • High pressure hoses, guns, lances and fittings that are incompatible, poorly rated, or of low quality, increasing risk of hose burst, whipping or fitting failure • Lack of engineered controls such as pressure relief valves, emergency	High	• Develop procurement specifications for high pressure cleaning plant that require compliance with relevant Australian Standards, WHS legislation and manufacturer safety requirements, including rated pressure and temperature for all components • Require suppliers to provide documentation (manuals, maintenance schedules, conformity/inspection certificates) for pressure washers, hot water units and ultra high pressure demolition systems before purchase or hire • Select only hoses, guns, lances, nozzles and fittings that are pressure- and temperature-rated for the specific high pressure cleaner, with manufacturer-approved compatibility and documented maximum allowable working pressure • Specify engineered safety features for all units, including emergency stop devices, automatic pressure relief, trigger locks, thermal protection, hose whips/whip checks and guarding on rotating or hot components • Consider emission controls, ventilation requirements and noise levels when procuring petrol-powered and hot water pressure cleaners, prioritising low-emission and lower-noise models where reasonably practicable	Medium

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	shut-offs, guards, hose restraints and gun trigger safety locks • Insufficient noise, vibration and ergonomics consideration in equipment selection leading to long-term health effects and fatigue • Inadequate provision for safe transport, storage and handling of machines, fuels, detergents and wastewater containment accessories • Failure to specify safety features for work in public carparks, pathways and external areas, such as lockable isolation, signage and traffic interface controls		• Include ergonomic and usability criteria (weight, hose management, handle design, vibration, manoeuvrability on uneven carpark and pathway surfaces) in selection decisions to reduce strain and fatigue • Ensure procurement of appropriate accessories for safe work in public and outdoor environments, including barricades, cones, warning signage, bunding, wastewater capture systems and lockable fuel storage • Implement a pre-acceptance inspection checklist for all new or hired high pressure equipment to verify safety features, guarding, labels, emergency stops and documentation prior to first use • Maintain a register of all pressure cleaning plant and major components (including high pressure hoses) with purchase date, ratings and safe service life records	
3. Competency, Training and Supervision Systems	• Workers operating high pressure cleaners, hot water blasters and ultra high pressure demolition equipment without adequate training or verification of competency • Supervisors lacking technical understanding of pressure cleaning hazards to enforce procedures and safe limits • No formal induction specific to high pressure cleaning risks in carparks, pathways, external walls and hard surface areas with public interface • Inadequate training in emergency response, including dealing with injection injuries, electrical contact, chemical exposure and loss of control of hoses • Failure to provide and enforce correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for different operating pressures, temperatures and cleaning chemicals • Complacency or normalisation of deviance over time, leading to bypassing of controls such as guards, interlocks or isolation procedures	High	• Develop a competency framework for all personnel involved in high pressure cleaning and ultra high pressure water blasting, defining required skills, knowledge and experience for different equipment classes and tasks • Provide formal, documented training for operators and supervisors covering high pressure hazards, system limitations, safe operating envelopes, environmental conditions, public interface risks and site-specific procedures • Implement a verification of competency (VOC) process before unsupervised use of high pressure and ultra high pressure equipment, with periodic re-assessment and refresher training (e.g. every 2–3 years or after incidents) • Integrate high pressure cleaning hazards and controls into general WHS induction and site-specific inductions for carparks, pathways, external wall cleaning and tile cleaning work • Deliver targeted training on emergency response procedures, including first aid for injection injuries, burns and chemical exposure, emergency shutdown, spill management and communication with emergency services • Implement a PPE management system specifying minimum PPE standards for different pressure and temperature ranges, with training on correct selection, fitting, inspection and replacement • Ensure competent supervision for new or high-risk tasks (e.g. concrete demolition ultra high pressure work, elevated external wall pressure cleaning), with clear expectations for oversight and intervention authority • Record all training, inductions, VOCs and toolbox talks in a central training register and link them to plant registers and job allocation systems so only competent workers are scheduled for high pressure tasks • Conduct periodic toolbox talks or safety meetings that address lessons learned from internal incidents, industry alerts and regulator guidance relating to high pressure cleaners and hot water blasters	Medium

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4. Safe Work Procedures and Work Planning	• Absence of documented safe work procedures (SWPs) or safe operating procedures (SOPs) for different types of pressure washing and water-blasting tasks • Inconsistent planning for high risk conditions such as working on wet, sloped or degraded concrete in carparks and pathways, or on elevated external walls and facades • Inadequate assessment of proximity to electrical installations, live traffic areas, pedestrians, parked vehicles and other services before commencing work • Failure to control simultaneous activities (e.g. other contractors, vehicle movement, public access) during pressure cleaning operations • No formal process to assess weather, lighting, noise and environmental conditions that may affe[illegible] pressure work • Poor definition of [illegible]xclusion zo[illegible]nd barricading for ultra[illegible]ure [illegible]ot water pressure cleaning where projectiles and spray can travel significant distances	High	[redacted]	Medium
5. Plant Maintenance, Inspection and Isolation Systems	• Degradation or failure of high pressure hoses, couplings, guns, lances and nozzles due to inadequate inspection, maintenance and replacement programs • Failure of pressure relief devices, emergency stops or isolation valves from lack of testing or servicing • Uncontrolled release of high pressure water or steam due to incorrect	High	[redacted]	Low

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	assembly, damaged fittings or makeshift repairs • Use of pressure washers, hot water blasters or hot jet street cleaners with unreported defects, leaks, vibration or unusual noise • No system for isolating and tagging out defective high pressure equipment, leading to continued unsafe use • Over-extended service life of critical components such as hoses operating beyond recommended hours or calendar life		[redacted]	
6. Fuel, Energy and Environmental Management	• Uncontrolled storage and handling of petrol and other fuels for pressure cleaners, creating fire, explosion and environmental contamination risks • Use of petrol-powered pressure cleaners and hot jet units in partially enclosed carparks or near building intakes leading to carbon monoxide build-up and fumes exposure • Lack of control over wastewater, detergents and concrete slurry from pressure washing and demolition activities entering stormwater or sensitive environments • Inadequate management of electrical risks when using electric pressure washers near water, including RCD failure or missing testing and tagging systems • Poor planning for water supply, drainage and bunding leading to slips, erosion or undermining of surfaces in carparks, pathways and on external walls	High	[redacted]	Medium

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	• Noise and air pollution from high pressure and hot water cleaning affecting nearby residents, tenants, and the public		[redacted]	
7. Traffic, Public Interface and Site Access Management	• Interaction between pressure cleaning operations and live traffic in carparks, streets and access roads, leading to collision or struck-by incidents • Uncontrolled public access into work zones during pressure washing of pathways, external walls, tiles and hard surfaces • Inadequate coordination with building occupants, tenants and other contractors leading to entry into exclusion zones or exposure to spray, projectiles or noise • Poor signage, barricading and wayfinding around work areas causing confusion and unsafe detours for pedestrians, prams, mobility devices and cyclists • Night work or low visibility conditions exacerbating the risk of contact between the public, vehicles and equipment	High	[redacted]	Medium
8. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Health Monitoring Systems	• Inadequate or inappropriate PPE for the pressure, temperature and chemical exposure levels (e.g. insufficient leg, hand or face protection for ultra high pressure or hot water work) • No formal process to ensure PPE is available, fit-for-purpose, maintained and replaced before it becomes ineffective • Lack of consideration of hearing protection for extended operation of high pressure cleaners and hot jet street	High	[redacted]	Medium

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	cleaners in reverberant carparks and laneways • Failure to address long-term health effects such as vibration, noise-induced hearing loss and musculoskeletal disorders from sustained use of handheld lances and hoses • No system for early reporting and management of minor injection injuries, strains or burns that can escalate if untreated		[redacted]	
9. Emergency Preparedness and Incident Response	• Delayed or ineffective response to injection injuries, eye injuries, falls or electrocution arising from high pressur cleaning operations • Lack of suitable firs d resources and trained first aiders sites where high pressure or hot wa r pressur ing is undertaken • Workers and supervisors unsure h to isolate pressure cleaners, hot units and associated energy s in an emergency • Inadequate communication systems for summoning assistance in remote, after-hours or multi-level carpark locations • No formal process for learning from incidents and near misses to update procedures and training	High	[redacted]	Low

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10. Audit, Monitoring and Continuous Improvement	• Drift from established procedures and controls over time due to lack of monitoring and enforcement • Failure to detect emerging risks from new equipment types, work environments or client demands (e.g. more frequent ultra high pressure demolition work) • Inaccurate or incomplete WHS data relating to high pressure cleaning leading to poor decision-making • Over-reliance on administrative controls and PPE without periodic review of opportunities for higher-order controls	Medium	[redacted]	Low

EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES FOR ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

Queensland & Australian Capital Territory
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
Legislation QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws
Codes of Practice QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice
Legislation ACT: https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations
Codes of Practice ACT: https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

New South Wales
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2025
Legislation NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation
Codes of Practice NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-of-codes-of-practice

Northern Territory
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011
Legislation NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws
Codes of Practice NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/forms-and-resources/codes-of-practice

South Australia
Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)
Legislation for SA: https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation
Codes of Practice for SA: https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs

Tasmania
Work Health and Safety Act 2012
Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012
Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012
Legislation for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations
Codes of Practice for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

Victoria
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017
Legislation VIC: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations
Codes of Practice VIC: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice

Western Australia
Work Health and Safety Act 2020
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022
Legislation Western Australia: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation
Codes of Practice WA: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice

Safe Work Australia Links
Law and Regulation (All States): https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation
Model Codes of Practice: https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice

Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work