

The background image shows a yellow excavator, specifically a Kobelco model, with a large tire being cleaned by a high-pressure water spray. The excavator's arm and bucket are visible in the upper left, and the tire is the central focus, with water spraying from its tread. The text 'NORTEX' is overlaid in a large, bold, orange font with a black outline, and 'SALES AND SERVICE' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

NORTEX

SALES AND SERVICE

10 Questions

To Ask Before Buying Your Pressure Washer

XA 85
175 CFM

Whether you're upgrading your current pressure washer or purchasing one for the first time, there are dozens of considerations that go into making the correct decision. After all, this is a massive investment that will impact your business for years to come, and we want to ensure that your system will meet your demands and exceed your expectations.

If you find yourself struggling to differentiate between the pressure washers available, you've landed in the right place. Our team at NorTex Sales and Service has been helping folks in various industries throughout North Texas find the best pressure washers for their needs for decades. Maintaining the cleanliness and safety of your work environments is our top priority, and we can't wait to prove it.

Hot vs. cold, stationary vs. portable, electric vs. gas-powered — we've got you covered. Find answers to these questions and more below, and remember to save this guide to reference throughout your search for a new pressure washer.

Sean Moss

Sales Director

smoss@ntxsd.net

972-689-9294

Should I Rent or Buy?

Before we get into the specifics of pressure washers, it's important to ask yourself a question that is all too often ignored — do I really need to buy a new pressure washer? Though owning a pressure washer certainly has its fair share of benefits, it's not always the correct solution for everyone. We want to help you avoid the mistake of spending thousands on a new pressure washer just to realize it is not the right system for you two months down the road.

When to Rent

Equipment testing — One of the main benefits of pressure washer rental is ensuring it actually fits your needs. Weekend rentals can allow you to test various pressure washers and decide on a machine you know is reliable and sufficient for your needs.

Contract cleaners — If you are hired to clean on contract, it might make more sense to rent a pressure washer only for the days or hours you need to use it. Some contract cleaners may also have their own machine but require a different setup to complete a certain job in a certain amount of time, and machine rental would be a great option.

Infrequent use — Pressure washers need to be used. If they sit idle for extended periods of time, it can ruin their longevity and cause expensive damage. If you operate seasonally or sporadically throughout the year, renting will likely be a better decision.

When to Buy

Frequent rentals — If you notice yourself renting more and more frequently or for extended periods of time, it might be time to purchase your own pressure washer. The initial investment will be worthwhile in the long run with proper maintenance.



Do I Need a Cold or Hot Water Pressure Washer?

2

After deciding between rentals and purchases, it's time to get into pressure washers specifics. Those making a pressure washer purchase for the first time may instantly gravitate towards a cold or hot water pressure washer solely based on price. More on that later, but it's crucial to understand the difference between cold and hot water pressure washers before making your purchase.



Cold Water Pressure Washers

Cold pressure washers are perfect for removing dirt and grime from a variety of surfaces, including vehicles, concrete, plastic, and wood. These machines blast cold water onto the surface with enough force to cut through the dirt or grime that is caked on. The higher the water pressure, the higher the cleaning power.

Industries: Construction, Car Detailers, Agriculture

Hot Water Pressure Washers

Have you ever washed your hands using cold water after handling something oily? If so, you know that it's virtually impossible to cut through the oil using just cold water, and you only end up with half-clean hands. Now think about that same situation, but maximize the surface size to that of commercial kitchens or oil rigs. Whereas cold pressure washers clean by pressure, hot water actually cuts through the viscosity of oil and grease and essentially melts it away to thoroughly clean the surface.

Industries: Food Services, Oil & Gas





3

How Do Different Pressure Washers Fit My Budget?

Building on the cold vs. hot conversation, the different machines have their specific price ranges. Hot water pressure washers are more expensive than cold given their increased cleaning power.

It's also important to note that different series of pressure washers include different PSI that affects the cleaning ability and cost. Car detailers tasked with cleaning dirt off cars will likely opt for a cold-water, low-pressure system to protect the car's exterior. Meanwhile, agricultural professionals who need to clean dirt and grass that is likely more caked-on than normal vehicles can use a high-pressure system on their sturdier machines.

4

What Standards Should My Pressure Washer Follow?

Some retailers may get away with selling systems that do not meet the highest standards, but these systems can prove costly in the long run. Under OSHA regulations, it is now law in the workplace that electrical equipment must be approved by a recognized testing agency, but that does not mean that safety standards are regulated from company to company.

The most reputable pressure washers, including Hotsy, are tested and certified by the Underwriter Laboratory (UL) in the U.S. and Canadian Standards Association (CSA) in Canada, so look for those certifications during your purchase.

5

Should I Buy a Stationary or Portable Washer?

This depends entirely on your industry and location of use.



Portable Pressure Washers

Portable pressure washers will be used in the field at job sites. These systems often include customized trailer rigs that make it easy to load and transport your pressure washer. Construction sites and city municipalities tasked with cleaning multiple locations often benefit from portable washers. These rigs almost always require gas for the engine and are heated using diesel-fired burners.



Stationary washers

Stationary washers, on the other hand, are preferred for almost every use-case that does not require travel. Because the machine is not on the move, it typically has greater longevity than portable systems and offers more automated features. Electric-powered, stationary systems can easily be wired into your existing power and remain on-premise, and often benefit from a clean-burning NG or LP burner system, making them easier to maintain and use.

6

What Voltage and Circuit Size Are Available?

When opting for an electric-powered pressure washer, it's important to consider the voltage and circuit size available at your location. Obviously, if you are off-site or don't have access to a power source, you will need a gas-powered portable pressure washer.

The voltage and circuit will dictate the overall potential of your system. For example, a lower voltage and circuit will only be able to handle a lower PSI (pounds per square inch) and GPM (gallons per minute), whereas a higher voltage can power machines with higher PSI and GPM. As a general rule of thumb, higher voltage usually means less amp draw, which allows the system to run more efficiently and last longer. Before deciding you want a high-pressure machine, it's vital to make sure your power source can handle it.



Is My Inlet Water Source Sufficient?

Similar to voltage and circuit size, it's also imperative to consider your inlet water source as it relates to potential GPM. If you have settled on a high-GPM machine, make sure that your water source is actually able to sustain the amount of water necessary. If your water source is insufficient, you may be better off with a more affordable, low-GPM machine, though we can also build custom flota tanks to help with this issue.

Will I Need Additional Accessories?

In a word, yes. While your system will run fine without add-ons, there are some accessories that are practically necessary if you want to use it to its full potential. Consider these five accessories to complete your pressure washer set-up:

- Hose reels, booms, or trolley systems — without defined hose storage, your workplace will be unorganized and potentially dangerous.
- Nozzles — there are dozens of different nozzle options available for different cleaning jobs. Depending on your needs, you may consider adding a turbo nozzle, sewer nozzle, foaming nozzle, fan nozzle, sand-blasting nozzle, sludge-sucking nozzle, or long-range nozzle.
- Surface cleaners — for those who will need to clean flatwork (concrete), surface cleaners improve the efficiency and effectiveness of flat-surface cleaning.
- Wands — wands improve reach and allow you to access difficult-to-reach places with ease. They range from 12-79 inches to meet a variety of needs. At NorTex Sales & Service, we also have telescoping wands that range from 12-14 inches. These keep system operators safe by allowing them to stay grounded rather than climb ladders.

Hoses and hose length — almost every system comes equipped with a 50-foot hose, but upgrading it to 100 feet is often preferred.



What Detergent Should I Buy?

Hot water pressure washers often benefit from additional detergent, but if you don't know what detergent to use, it could be devastating to the health of your machine. From general-purpose cleaners to degreasers to vehicle detergents, there are a number of potential detergents fit for specific systems and uses.

To be certain that you are using the right detergent for your system and industry, we recommend scheduling an on-site evaluation with a pressure washing professional to assess and adhere to your needs. If not, you could choose the wrong detergent and inadvertently damage your pressure washer or whatever you are washing.



Am I Ready to Care for My Pressure Washer?

Purchasing a pressure washer is not just a one-off decision — it requires diligent maintenance to keep it performing for years on end. Not only must you store your system in a safe, freeze-proof area, you also must regularly clean and maintain it.

If you neglect pressure washer maintenance, the pressure and water temperature (for hot water pressure washers) will deplete over time, leaving you with a skeleton of the system you purchased. Follow maintenance tips or schedule routine maintenance checks on your system to keep it healthy.

NorTex Sales & Service is here to make sure your next pressure washer purchase is one that will last. As a certified partner of Hotsy, we are able to remove the difficulty from the purchasing process and ensure you are equipped with the best solution for your needs. Whether you need to purchase your new system, rent or test a system, or equip an existing system with upgraded accessories, let NorTex Sales & Service assist. For more information about who we are, check us out [here](#).

