

Protect your home: 5 things you must ask your house washing service

SMART HOMEOWNERS GUIDE

1 Do you use bleach by itself to wash the house?

Bleach is often used as a cheap and ineffective cleaning chemical by house washers. It can degrade siding and roofing materials, and certainly isn't too good for grass, animals and other living things in the environment.

However when a bit of bleach is properly mixed with a high quality house-specific detergent like *EmulsifierPlus*, risks are greatly minimized. In addition, the gloss enhancers contained in that detergent will make your home look bright and new.

Also be sure your house washer is not using caustic chemicals on your home, such as sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide. These are the active ingredients in *Drano*, *Easy-Off* and paint strippers. And of course you don't want them to remove the paint along with the dirt!

2 Are your detergents environmentally friendly?

It's your property—of course it should be left free of residual chemicals. You need to be sure up front that lawns and shrubs are not harmed by contaminants, not to mention children and pets.

However, even when you ask, some house washing companies will assure you that their cleaning materials are "biodegradable." That's not good enough! Given enough time, even your house itself is "biodegradable."

Or you might be told that their chemicals are "neutralized" after the job is done. At least, whatever hasn't already seeped into the ground. Wouldn't you rather they use detergents that are formulated to be 100% environmentally safe from the start?

A true house washing professional is as concerned about the local environment as you are. Leaving soil, greenery and underground streams exactly as they found them is their primary goal.

3 Have you reviewed your detergents' MSDS?

MSDS? What's that?

MSDS stands for 'Materials Safety Data Sheet'. This industry-standard form includes information about ingredients, properties, handling, potential risks or hazards, and instructions in the case of accidental spills.

Would you hire a house washing service that hasn't reviewed the MSDS info for every detergent product they use? Neither would we! Unfortunately, most contractors in the industry have no idea what ingredients are in the products they use.

As an added precaution, also ask your house washing pro if they first test their cleaning products on a small, hidden part of the house surface, to be sure there is no unexpected reaction or other issue. You don't want to find out about a possible problem after the job is done.