

Also, our humidity creates mold and mildew issues on vinyl and cedar surfaces of homes as well, especially on the rocky Maine coast.

The summer months were full of vinyl restoration. Of course, using the "old school process" that I grew



up learning from Dr Pete, I did things differently than most people who clean houses.

I restored vinyl, using heat and Prodigy, removing mold and mildew, as well as oxidation. When I say I use heat, I never use extremely hot water. The actual temperature of the water is determined by the weather conditions.

Unless it is extremely hot outside, using warm water is advised because it makes your house washing detergent work better. It is important to remember not to allow detergent to dry on surfaces, especially windows.

Weather conditions play a huge factor in how fast things dry. Hot weather, bright sun, dry conditions and wind all change the speed in which detergent will dry on a surface. Anyone who thinks washing a house is simple is fooling themselves. Weather is just one of the extreme variables encountered. Other variables are surface type and condition, detergent strength, and cleaning pressure applied.

This cleaning process can be water pressure or manual surface agitation, which is sometimes necessary for some types of cleaning (i.e. streaks on gutters).

Unless I have someone specifically request it, I do not "soft wash" houses. Soft washing is the process of

applying sodium hypochlorite (12% bleach) on vinyl at low pressure, letting it dwell for a period of time, then rinsing also with low pressure as well. I attempt in all ways to keep the process green by using detergents that EnviroSpec sells that are environmentally safe. I've had

amazing feedback from my clients about how the restoration and environmentally safe techniques have made them my customers for life. Many of these customers will pay the extra money to have me take the time to use high pressure and green detergents when restoring their vinyl.

Keep in mind, sodium hypochlorite is very strong and if you aren't careful it can damage vegetation and the smell can be offensive to clients.

My company's largest and most exciting job of the summer was an amazing cedar wood restoration in "down east" Maine. It was three large buildings that sit on two miles of the Maine coast. As you can see from the photos, we applied Restore by using a

15 gallon, 1.5 GPM electric pump. We then used appropriate pressure with warm water to rinse off the darker stain and begin the process of fully restoring the wood to its original color. Anyone who has done any wood restoration knows the importance of "fanning" the contact points to make the process even.

Appropriate pressure is very important, especially when restoring cedar. Appropriate pressure is determined in the field, by quickly assessing how much pressure any given surface can withstand without incurring damage. The appropriate pressure also provides for optimal restorative results. In other words, if you're too far away, you're not going to clean it, but if you're too close, you'll damage it.

The results were dramatic and the owner was thrilled with the way his buildings look. So thrilled that he has decided to leave the cedar natural and have my company return every year to restore them as his siding maintenance program.

I was able to get some pictures at the site of Dr Pete doing some wood restoration as well! These buildings were very large, two being over 3000 square feet, the other being about 2500 square feet.

We did this job in September and the weather was practically perfect. It was in the 50's and 60's and