ALWAYS ASK TO SEE THEIR MSDS!

HOME OWNERS BEWARE!

Anyone can Bleach a house. It's 'quick' and it is 'cheap' to do. You can do it yourself for as little as $19.95 so why would you hire someone else to do it? All you need is a couple of gallons of bleach and a pressure washer that you can rent from your local hardware store for as little as $19.95 a day but...

Just remember one thing. BLEACH IS A CORROSIVE!

What does corrosive mean? A corrosive substance is one that will destroy and damage another surface or substance with which it comes into contact. The term 'corrosive' means 'to gnaw' indicating how these substances seem to 'gnaw' their way through other surfaces (including flesh.)

With this in mind allow me to paint a 'scary' picture for you. Imagine you hired a contractor and as you watch him apply this 'corrosive' substance to you house or your roof you notice that there is a 'mist' that is being picked up by the wind and that mist is carrying over to your neighbor's house, on their car, in their flower bed or maybe even their back yard where the kids are playing or the animals live. Corrosive - 'to gnaw' their way through - to destroy. *Now that is scary!*

So the contractor is standing there telling you... 'you don't have to worry - I have been doing this for years.' then you notice his uniform has little to no color and is riddled with holes, he is 'scarred' from head to toe and when you look at his equipment it looks like a bucket of rust where the chlorine has eaten away the all the paint.

Remember, gutters, siding, flower beds, automobiles, boats, metal fences - not to mention children and pets are all at risk and now you must ask yourself - 'is it really worth saving a few bucks by getting my house bleached?'

If you are like most of us we think of Bleach (sodium hypochlorite) as the gallon jug that sits next to the washing machine that helps to keep our clothes bright & white. However, in the roof and house cleaning industrys you can forget the washing machine bleach which is around 5% sodium hypochlorite. The majority of the contractors who use this product elect to purchase the stronger version know as 'pool shock' which is in the 12-14% range.

Contractors will tell you that bleach kills the mold but here is what those who are expert in mold say. " C h l o r i n e bleach should not be used in mold remediation as confirmed by OSHA's and EPA's updated recommendations and suggested guidelines. The use of bleach as a mold disinfectant is best left to kitchen and bathroom countertops, tubs and shower glass, etc."

"Chlorine bleach is corrosive and that fact is stated on the product label (not to mention the exposure hazards of dioxins). Yet the properties of chlorine bleach prevent it from "soaking into" wood-based building, & porous materials to get at the deeply embedded mycelia (roots) of mold. The object to killing mold is to kill its "roots"."

"OSHA is the first federal agency to announce a departure from the use of chlorine bleach in mold remediation. In time, other federal, state and other public safety agencies are expected to follow OSHA's lead. The public should be aware, however, that a chlorine bleach solution IS an effective sanitizing product that kills mold on hard non porous surfaces and neutralizes **indoor** mold allergens that trigger allergies."

There are much safer and more effective way to wash a substrate. A well structured, 'alkaline detergent bed' will kill the mildew and penetrate to the roots. Although bleach will remove surface mold/mildew it does very little in removing the more prevalent pollutants as described below.

1. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas emitted from combustion processes. Nationally and, particularly in urban areas, the majority of CO emissions to ambient air come from mobile sources. CO can cause harmful health effects by reducing oxygen delivery to the body's organs (like the heart and brain) and tissues.
2. Particulate matter, also known as particle pollution or PM, is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. Particle pollution is made up of a number of components, including acids (such as nitrates and sulfates), organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles.
3. Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) is one of a group of highly reactive gasses known as "oxides of nitrogen," or "nitrogen oxides (NOx)." NO2 forms quickly from emissions from cars, trucks and buses, power plants, and off-road equipment. In addition to contributing to the formation of ground-level ozone, and fine particle pollution, NO2 is linked with a number of adverse effects on the respiratory system.
4. Sulfur dioxide (SO2) is one of a group of highly reactive gasses known as "oxides of sulfur." The largest sources of SO2 emissions are from fossil fuel combustion at power plants (73%) and other industrial facilities (20%). Smaller sources of SO2 emissions include industrial processes such as extracting metal from ore, and the burning of high sulfur containing fuels by locomotives, large ships, and non-road equipment. SO2 is linked with a number of adverse effects on the respiratory system.
5. Lead (Pb): The major sources of lead emissions have historically been from fuels in on-road motor vehicles (such as cars and trucks) and industrial sources. As a result of EPA's regulatory efforts to remove lead from on-road motor vehicle gasoline, emissions of lead from the transportation sector dramatically declined by 95 percent between 1980 and 1999, and levels of lead in the air decreased by 94 percent between 1980 and 1999. Today, the highest levels of lead in air are usually found near lead smelters. The major sources of lead emissions to the air today are ore and metals processing and piston-engine aircraft operating on leaded aviation gasoline.

The next time you have your roof or house washed we hope you will consider a contractor who knows and understands the importance of utilizing products that will keep your family, your animals and your property safe. We hope you will choose to use a contractor who uses our products because if you do we know the results will be the best the industry has to offer.

FLEET OWNERS BEWARE!

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Remember that beautiful tractor/trailer that you purchased for $150,000.00? ...and then you spent another $10,000.00 having it 'wrapped' with your company logo and advertising and now it is only 6 months old and it is 'dull' and 'faded?'

The following are undisputable facts as to why they look the way they do and it really isn't your fault. How else would you know unless you had to make a living by washing tractor/trailers?

With over 40 years in the professional contract cleaning industry we learned early on that ***sodium and potassium hydroxide (caustic/corrosive***) on painted surfaces 'dulls' and destroys the paint and those expensive 'decals' and truck-wraps.

When products containing either of these two ingredients are first applied - almost immediately the dirt starts 'rolling' off the surface *but* so does a microscopic layer of paint. Why do contractors use it?

Here are the 3 primary reasons.
1. It is cheap.
2. There is less work involved.
3. ...and fleet owners/managers do not realize what is happening by using these ingredients resulting in 'beating' the contractor so far down on price that the contractor has little choice but to cut corners anywhere they can.

The following two popular truck wash products were pulled at random. This information comes directly from their MSDS which is posted on-line. Most manufactures of truck wash detergents produce products containing Sodium or Potassium Hydroxide.

BIG Z - LIQUID TRUCK AND TRAILER WASH

(from a very well-known chemical manufacturer)
Chemical Ingredient:
SODIUM HYDROXIDE *(caustic soda; soda lye)* **10% - 20%**

BULLDOG TRUCK WASH

(from a very well-known chemical manufacturer)
Chemical Ingredient:
SODIUM HYDROXIDE *(caustic soda; soda lye)* **5% - 15%**

Always ask the contracto to produce the **MSDS** on the products they use and if you see either **Sodium** *or* **Potassium Hydroxide** listed as an ingredient you could be in for some very expensive and irreversable damage.

So- just what are they using to clean your vehicles? Well let's take a look at the ingredients of some other products that are we are familiar with. These are all great product and my favorites when it come to the task that they were intended to be used for.

How about this one?

EASY OFF® OVEN CLEANER
Chemical Ingredient:
SODIUM HYDROXIDE **3% - 7%***
(caustic soda; soda lye)

and this one...

DRANO® CRYSTALS DRAIN CLEANER
Chemical Ingredient:
SODIUM HYDROXIDE **30.00% - 60.00%***
(caustic soda; soda lye)

or...

PEEL AWAY 1® PAINT STRIPPER
Chemical Ingredient:
SODIUM HYDROXIDE **9%***
(caustic soda; soda lye)

SO HERE IS THE 'BOTTOM LINE' QUESTION!

Would you knowingly take your favorite car down to the local car wash if you knew that they were going to wash it using any of these products? If the answer is NO then why would you allow a contractor wash that $150,000.00 truch using product containing the same ingredient?