

Pressure Washing Terminology

Acronyms:

DS - Downstreaming

GPM – Gallons per minute

PSI – Pound Per Square Inch

SH - Sodium hypochlorite

Chemicals:

Sodium hypochlorite is a [chemical compound](#) with the [formula](#) NaClO. It is composed of a [sodium cation](#) (Na+) and a [hypochlorite anion](#) (ClO-); it may also be viewed as the sodium [salt](#) of [hypochlorous acid](#). When dissolved in water it is commonly known as **bleach** or **liquid bleach**, and is frequently used as a [disinfectant](#) or a [bleaching agent](#).

Sodium hydroxide, also known as **caustic soda**, or **lye**, is an [inorganic compound](#) with the [chemical formula](#) NaOH. It is a white solid and highly [caustic](#) metallic [base](#) and [alkali salt](#) which is available in pellets, flakes, granules, and as prepared solutions at a number of different concentrations. Sodium hydroxide forms an approximately 50% (by weight) [saturated solution](#) with water.

Glossary:

Downstreaming - Downstream injecting just means that you introduce an additional liquid, such as a detergent, into your power washer through an injector that is mounted after the pump into the high pressure line side. This is usually done in low pressure mode. If you want to do a little high pressure mode injecting in your power washer, you will need an injector designed to operate at high pressures. You'll be happy to know that some of these high pressure injectors can be temporarily installed on the end of your gun lance.

Emulsion – A [mixture](#) of two or more [liquids](#) that are normally [immiscible](#) (nonmixable or unblendable).

Gallons Per Minute – A measurement of how many gallons of liquid can be supplied through the water pump and a pressure washer.

House Mix – A mixture of water, chemicals, and detergents applied to the side of houses for the purpose of removing algae, dirt, mold, and mildew.

Pound Per Square Inch - More accurately, **pound-force per square inch** (abbreviations: **psi**, **lbf/in²**, **lb_f/in²**, **lbf/sq in**, **lb_f/sq in**) is a unit of [pressure](#) or of [stress](#) based on [avoirdupois](#) units. It is the pressure resulting from a force of one [pound-force](#) applied to an area of one [square inch](#).

Roof Mix – A mixture of water, chemicals, and detergents applied to the roof of houses for the purpose of removing algae, dirt, mold, and mildew.

Surfactant - Compounds that lower the [surface tension](#) (or interfacial tension) between two liquids or between a liquid and a solid. Surfactants may act as [detergents](#), wetting agents, [emulsifiers](#), [foaming agents](#), and [dispersants](#). [Sodium laureth sulfate](#), or sodium lauryl ether sulfate (**SLES**), is a [detergent](#) and [surfactant](#) found in many personal care products ([soaps](#), [shampoos](#), [toothpastes](#), etc.). It is an inexpensive and effective [foamer](#). [Sodium lauryl sulfate](#) (also known as sodium dodecyl sulfate or **SDS**) and [ammonium lauryl sulfate](#) (**ALS**) are commonly used alternatives to SLES in consumer products. Popular types of surfactants used in the industry are: **Roof Snot**, **Wild Cherry**, and **Gain** (laundry detergent).