

Service Bulletin: MART Power Washer

MART Tech Services

It's Foaming! – Now What?

What Causes Parts Washer Foaming? And How to Stop it.

1. The wash temperature is too low. Many chemicals will foam if the wash temperature is below 160 degrees. Adjust the washer's operating temperature to what is optimal for the chemical you are using. For MART [Power Klean](#) chemicals the temperature must be 160 degrees or higher before starting the wash cycle. Remember that altitude, water hardness and types of soils can also affect the foaming temperature.



2. The type(s) of soils can react adversely with the chemical which can cause foaming. Select a chemical that is appropriate for the soils to be removed. Different types of chemicals foam worse than others with certain kinds of soils. Sodium hydroxide and animal fats are always a bad combination.



3. [Chemical concentration](#) may be too low. [Titrating the cleaning solution](#) on a regular basis determines the amount of cleaning chemical per gallon of water and allows you to decide if additional cleaning chemical is required. By measuring the chemical concentration using a [titration kit](#), you can dramatically cut chemical usage and minimize foaming.

4. There is a small percentage of defoaming agents built into the [Power Klean](#) chemical detergents. You may need to add a “booster charge” of [defoamer](#) if foaming is a problem. Consider adding a defoaming agent rather than adding more chemical providing your cleaning needs are being met.



5. Be sure your chemical is formulated for the high velocity and impact of power washing. MART [Power Klean](#) chemicals are specifically designed to reduce the tendency to foam from the energy created by the MART Power Washer pumping system.

6. Oil skimming may be removing defoamant along with the oils and greases. Operate your oil skimmer only after the cleaning solution cools down, the oils have floated to the surface and the defoamant has gone back into solution. The oil skimmer can be programmed with the 7-day clock to run after hours. If you are removing synthetic oils and greases, run the skimmer continuously. The build-up of synthetic oils on the surface can cause foam.

7. Greases or other contaminants that contain animal fat can cause foaming with alkaline chemicals. Sodium hydroxide (lye) and animal fat is the basic formula for soap making. Try using Power Klean III or Power Klean II when animal fat may be present as a lubricant.

For further information please contact
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