

## The wrong equipment, the wrong results

Thoughts from an Honest Roofer on Washing Cedar Shake Roofing, Part Two (See Case Study #7 for Part One)

### To wash or not to wash...

In the past 25 years I have been asked hundreds of times if washing a cedar roof can cause damage. I've always said the same thing. Yes, if you use the wrong equipment or you try to wash the wrong roof. Put simply, washing cedar roofs professionally requires the use of professional equipment and judgement. For many years I've tried to take the high road when it came to calling out some of the practices a couple of our local competitors use, in particular as it relates to their equipment. I've decided to show and tell because consumers have the right to know what they are buying and why, more often than not, some companies charge less than we do for 'the same' work. To be fair, some homeowners are looking to sell their homes and not terribly interested in the long term outcome of the work being performed. In these situations it seems only logical to hire the cheap guys, in particular if you are willing to gamble a little. Otherwise, we recommend going with a company that uses professional equipment.

- 1 Roof cleaning franchise using low quality equipment.
- 2 Said low quality equipment.
- 3 Single man washing a roof. Not safe. Work like this should be done using two men and two machines.



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Pressure washers like this should NEVER be used on a professional cedar roof cleaning job. They rely on high pressure instead of high volume to clean the debris off cedar roofs. The problem is they remove a lot of wood along with the debris. Wood loss = wood damage.

**Cat Pump 4.0/4000 3400RPM 66DX40G11**

**CAT PUMP 66DX40G11** **4 Gallons Per Minute!**

Flow: 4.0 GPM (15.0 L/M)  
 Press Range : 100 to 4000 PSI  
 Stroke: 0.449" (11.4 mm)

**COMMON PUMP SPECIFICATIONS**  
 Max. RPM : 3400 RPM (3400 RPM)  
 Engine Mounting Face : 6.5" (6.5")  
 Inlet Pressure Range: Flooded to 75 PSI (Flooded to 5.25 BAR)  
 Bore: 0.551" (14 mm)  
 Shaft Diameter (Hollow): 1" (25.4 mm)  
 Max. Liquid Temperature : 140°F (60°C)  
 Crankcase Capacity : 18 oz. (0.55 L)  
 Inlet Ports (2) : 1/2" NPTF (1/2" NPTF)  
 Discharge Ports (2) : 3/8" NPTF (3/8" NPTF)  
 Weight: 26.15 lbs. (11.9 kg)  
 Dimensions (Pump Only) : 10.0 x 9.96 x 6.38" (254 x 253 x 162 mm)

