



V8 XJ Series/XK8

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SERVICE

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Pressure Washing Vehicles –
Cleaning & Detailing Chemicals

MODEL

1997 MY-ON XK8 Range
1998 MY-ON V8 XJ Series

VIN

001001-ON
812256-ON**Issue:**

The careless use of high-pressure hot water cleaning equipment and cleaning chemicals may result in damage to certain vehicle components. This bulletin provides guidelines for the use of cleaning equipment and materials.

BACKGROUND:

All electrical equipment on a motor vehicle must be considered as being only ‘splash proof’ with regard to water entry. Electrical equipment must be considered vulnerable if high-pressure jets of water are aimed at components.

Under hood housings for electrical relays and fuses have been proven to be more than adequate in providing waterproof protection under the most extreme conditions of vehicle operation. However, the inappropriate use of high-pressure washing equipment can expose the seals on electrical component housings to water pressure that would not be experienced during driving. This pressure can result in distortion of seals and the entry of water or chemicals into electrical components. Silicones contained in many cleaning products commonly used as additives in vehicle power washing equipment can damage electrical relays.

In addition to electrical components, the following components can also be damaged by power-washing equipment:

- Plastic external trim components - badges, etc
- Door and luggage compartment weather strips
- Sunroof weather strips
- Head and tail lamp glasses and lenses
- Windshield wiper blades
- License plates
- Hood liners

Action:**USING POWER WASH EQUIPMENT**

All personnel involved with power washing equipment should observe the following precautions when cleaning under hood areas or operating in proximity to other vulnerable components:

Whenever possible, do **NOT** use high pressure washing equipment or steam cleaners. A hose connected to a cold water supply and provided with a spray nozzle should be adequate.

When there is no alternative to the use of power washing equipment:

1. Turn the Pressure Regulator to a **LOW** setting.

2. When using a steam cleaner, ensure that the maximum Temperature Setting does not exceed 90 °C (194 °F).
3. Do **not** bring the nozzle close to electrical connectors, electrical components such as generator, starter motor, fuel injection and ignition components, or relay & fuse housings. The minimum distance of the nozzle from such components should never be less than 1 meter, preferably 1.5 meters (3-4 feet).
4. Do **not** aim the water/steam jet directly at any electrical component or other vulnerable item. If necessary, provide local protection for components by wrapping them with plastic or other waterproof sheeting.
5. Avoid prolonged spraying of license plates. High pressure hot water can strip paint from license plates.
6. Avoid spraying door and window seals, and the seal surrounding the lid of the luggage compartment. A high pressure water jet may distort or damage the seals.
7. Avoid soaking of hood liner panels and other nonmetallic sound-deadening materials. These materials may absorb considerable quantities of water and drop out of position from the weight of the absorbed water. The recent recall R469 (bulletin 76-128) addresses this problem on 1994 XJ12 vehicles.

COLD CLIMATE CONDITIONS

Be sure to dry off a vehicle which has just been washed, before exposing it to freezing temperatures. If using a compressed air nozzle for this purpose, use care so that residual water is not driven inside vulnerable components by the air. Use an air nozzle with care - high-pressure air can seriously damage soft rubber and plastic seals. Where possible, store the vehicle overnight in a warm atmosphere, leaving the hood and windows fully open to allow residual wash water to evaporate, before returning the vehicle to service or outside storage in freezing climatic conditions.

If door and window seals have become soaked and the vehicle is immediately returned to freezing conditions, seals may be damaged if any attempt is made to open a door, window, or the lid of the luggage compartment should the seal be still frozen to the adjacent bodywork. This point is particularly important on XK8 models, since the door windows must drop slightly before a door can be opened without damaging the seals.

CLEANING AND DETAILING CHEMICALS

A further concern is the use, especially in the engine compartment, of cleaning and detailing chemical products, particularly those containing silicones.

Detailed investigations have indicated that the entry of silicones into electrical components (particularly relays, connectors and components containing printed circuits) can cause intermittent operation or complete failure.

Jaguar does **NOT** recommend under hood cleaning as a routine practice, nor the practice of applying by spray, detailing products to the engine, engine bay, under hood pipes and hoses, and other components to obtain a 'showroom' finish. If a high finish is desired, hand detailing is recommended.

Many products sold for this purpose, which may be described as "quick, cheap and easy", contain high levels of acids or alkalis in cleaning products, or silicones in detailing/polishing products.

Chemicals containing high levels of acids or alkalis will have a detrimental effect on certain metallic components, especially those containing aluminum or magnesium alloys which can be permanently pitted or stained by the use of such products.

Residues of detailing products which are not silicone-free, may be carried into electrical components by the normal movement of air in the engine compartment as the vehicle is driven, along with water which may be splashed into the engine compartment by the wheels. Residues of silicone products, if not completely removed from the windshield and wiper blade, may give rise to complaints of wiper smearing and streaking.

There are available, however, both cleaning and detailing products which contain low levels of acids or alkalis, and which have zero silicone content. Although often a little more expensive, such products will be less aggressive in their effects on a vehicle.

These types of products should never be applied by high pressure spraying or as additives through a pressure washer/steam cleaner. If necessary to clean or degrease an engine, obtain a product which is suitable for application by brush or by a hand-actuated garden sprayer, and that can be washed off by a low pressure hose or spray.

Please bring the above to the attention of all personnel concerned, not only to employees within dealerships but also especially to any specialist contractor to whom dealers may sublet vehicle cleaning and detailing operations.

Warranty Information:

This Technical Bulletin is issued for information only.