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**SERVICE BULLETIN**  
**ALL TF and TL MEWP's – Washing and Cleaning**

**Doc. No.: 601008-13**

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<b>Applicable Vehicles:</b>	Redmond Gary TF9M, TF13M, TF14M, TF16M, TF17M, TL14M, TL16M, TL17M
<b>Issue Date:</b>	18 March 2020
<b>Overview:</b>	Cleaning recommendations to avoid fibreglass surface cracking at wear pad contact points.

*Ensure all of this work is carried out in a safe working environment. All work is to be carried out by a competent person.*

<b>Parts &amp; Equipment Required:</b>	Safety Glasses & relevant PPE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low pressure water (garden hose)</li> <li>- Soft bristle polypropylene brush</li> <li>- Bucket (min 10 litres)</li> <li>- B-1 kits (Boom Pre-Wash Wipe)</li> <li>- BWC-128 or BWC-640 (Boom Wash Concentrate)</li> <li>- Warm water pressure washer</li> <li>- S-1 kits (Hot Stick Wipe)</li> <li>- Lint free cloths</li> <li>- CRC 808 Silicone Spray</li> </ul>
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*Please read and understand the following instructions prior to start work.*

**INTRODUCTION**

To avoid damage to fibreglass boom surfaces, they must be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the washing and cleaning procedures recommended below (extract from Service Manual). In addition, it is recommended to spray CRC 808 Silicone Spray onto telescopic booms and then wipe the booms over with a clean cloth at every 3 month inspection. Failure to do so will result in the following:

- Dark marks running down the boom at wear pad contact points. This is dirt and will cause electrical surface tracking. If left for a prolonged period of time and not cleaned, the dirt is abrasive. It will scratch the boom and will also increase the boom temperature up to 80°C on a day with an ambient temperature of 30°C and more if the ambient temperature is higher. At 80°C the gelcoat will crack and to repair the booms, the boom will need to be removed from the EWP and the gelcoat surface will need to be repaired.



**Figure 1** Photo of typical boom that requires cleaning



**Figure 2** Boom in clean condition

## **WASHING AND CLEANING OF MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM**

As most of the time the MEWP is in an outside environment whether in use or stationary (not in use), dust from the atmosphere settles on all surfaces. This, added to any condensation, forms a pasty film on all surfaces (including inside surfaces). As a lot of dust has a metallic base, it becomes conductive and corrosive. Also, road grime (dust and oil mixture) attaches to all surfaces. Combine both of these and you get a sticky surface coating that builds up over a period of time, which is usually electrically **conductive**. This is a safety problem that needs to be addressed. This could also cause the MEWP to fail the required electrical test as per Australian Standards.

This grime and dirt can, under the right conditions, build up on a MEWP, making it unsafe in the event that it contacts live power lines. This is covered in the Risk Assessment at Points 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8. The Risk Assessment is in the training manual and operation manual supplied with the MEWP on delivery.

The Risk Assessment conforms to AS1418.10– 2011.

When the boom is kept clean:

- It is safe to use around live electrical wires;
- It is easier to identify any physical damage;
- Operators can take pride in their MEWP;
- The Logo of the Company is on display;
- It is usually easier for the testing group to come to a satisfactory test result.

**Who takes care of your insulated boom after the testing is done?**

**YOU DO!**

**If you test your MEWP electrical integrity but do not address maintenance between tests, read this.**

Utilities have a variety of programs to maintain the integrity of their MEWP. Sometimes overlooked is the regular maintenance and cleaning of the fibreglass boom between bi-annual electrical testing and service.

**Who removes the hydraulic fluid, road grime and other contaminants that build up during the normal exposure of the boom and how do they do it?**

Dirt accumulated during normal use can affect the electrical properties of your boom. These include road debris, salt spray, hydraulic fluid and grease. When residue builds up on the boom, the water sheets out rather than beading up and running off. This pooling or sheeting of water on dirty booms can keep the booms from meeting dielectric standards and potentially pose a hazard in the field.

### **What can you use to clean fibreglass booms?**

Common degreasers or solvents can actually harm and strip the gel coat on the boom, causing weak and soft spots. Many crews have access to solvents and they know how well these solvents remove grease. They may not know the harmful effects solvents can have on the fibreglass portions of the booms, turret or basket. Some cleaners contain abrasives and leave a considerable residue. Others, like acetone, xylene and toluene, can cause permanent damage if left in contact with the surface for too long a period. These solvents are also flammable and pose other hazards. Personnel should be trained on the products for use on the boom and basket areas to keep the truck in proper working order. The following Polywater products are recommended:

1. Boom pre-wash wipe (B-1)
2. Boom Concentrate (BWC-128 or BWC-640)
3. Fibreglass wax and buff kit (W-1)
4. Hot Stick Wipe (S-1)

## **PROCEDURE FOR CLEANING AND MAINTAINING REDMOND GARY MEWP INSULATION**

These procedures must be followed to maintain insulation systems. Build-up of dirt and grime on the MEWP's fibreglass insulating surfaces can:

- Degrade the MEWP's insulation qualities. This could result in electrocution of operators and/or ground personnel.
- Cause premature failure of the wearing fibreglass surfaces of the telescoping booms.

## **Daily Insulation Cleaning Regime**

Time to complete: 10mins (approx.)

### **When:**

At least once a day. On arrival at the first worksite, prior to starting the day's work.

On arrival at subsequent worksites, if road grime etc. has dirtied the insulator's surfaces.

### **Environment:**

Worksite

Equipment:

S-1 kits (Hot Stick Wipe)

Lint free cloths

### **Procedure:**

Use an S-1 kit and wipe all external surfaces of the fly boom, chassis insulators and external surfaces of the basket. This should remove all surface dirt and leave a thin hydrophobic (water-repellent) coating on the insulated surfaces.

## **Monthly Insulation Cleaning**

Time to complete: 1.5hr (approx)

### **When:**

At least once a month.

### **Environment:**

Workshop wash bay or other wash bay equipped with adequate drainage, scrubbing etc.

### **Equipment:**

Low pressure water (garden hose)

Soft bristle polypropylene brush

Bucket (min 10 litres)

B-1 kits (Boom Pre-wash Wipe)

BWC-128 or BWC-640 (Boom Wash Concentrate)

Warm water pressure washer

S-1 kits (Hot Stick Wipe)

Lint free cloths

**PROCEDURE:**

This work must be carried out in a wash bay area designed to cope with oil emulsions etc. The relevant EPA regulations must be adhered to. Set the MEWP up so the runoff from the extended boom and turret will be caught in the wash bay bund

Extend the booms out fully and arrange safe access for the whole boom and turret.

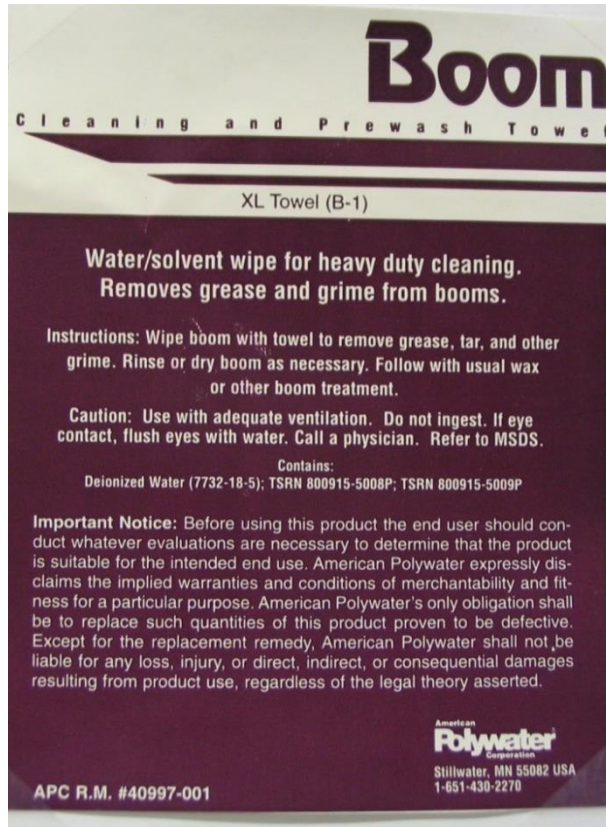
Clean all dirt, mud and other loose material from the basket, booms, covers and turret by using low pressure water (garden hose) and a soft bristle polypropylene brush

Use B-1 (Boom Pre-wash Wipe) to clean grease, tar etc. off the external surfaces. Rinse with water from a low-pressure hose

Wash the exposed fibreglass (of the booms and other fibreglass covers) with a solution of BWC-128 or BWC-640 (Boom Wash Concentrate) mixed 1 part to 3 parts water. Wash thoroughly using a soft bristle brush. After the boom is thoroughly cleaned, rinse with low-pressure water making sure that all washing fluid is completely flushed away.

## MEWP BOOM CLEANING AND CARE

The following products are manufactured by POLYWATER and meet the OSHA Live Line Tool Standard:



### Boom Wash Prewipe (B-1)

The B-1 Pre-wash is a large cleaner-saturated wipe that will clean the grease and tar, etc. a detergent/water will not easily remove from the boom. The cleaner is water soluble and is washed off during a subsequent water cleaning or rinse. The B-1 Pre-wash Wipe does not adversely affect the gel coat on the boom

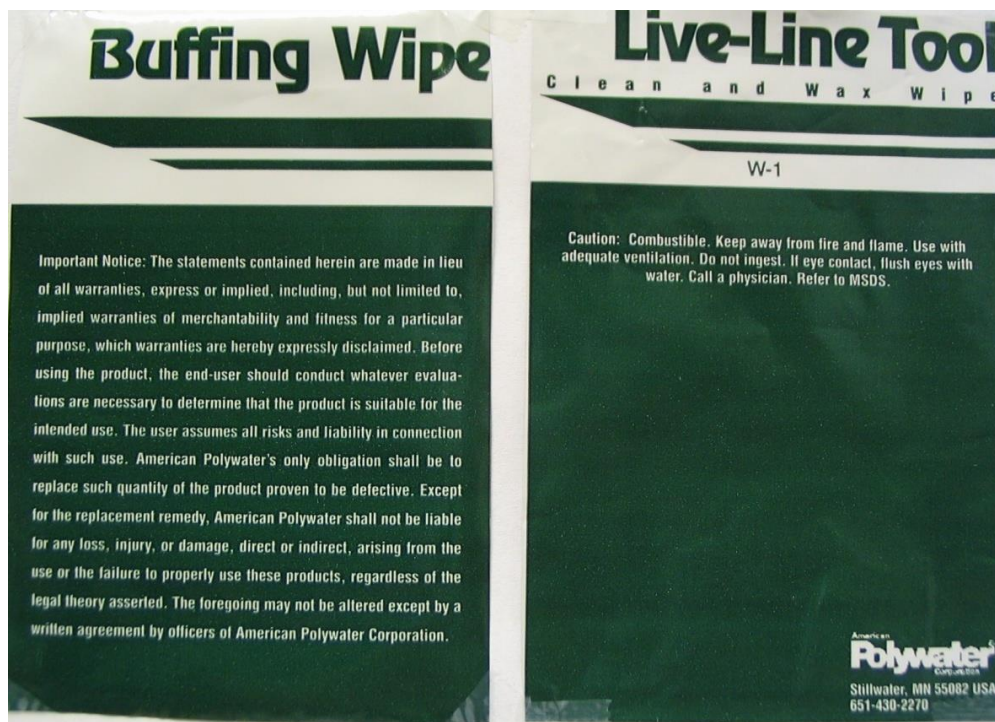


### Boom Wash Concentrate

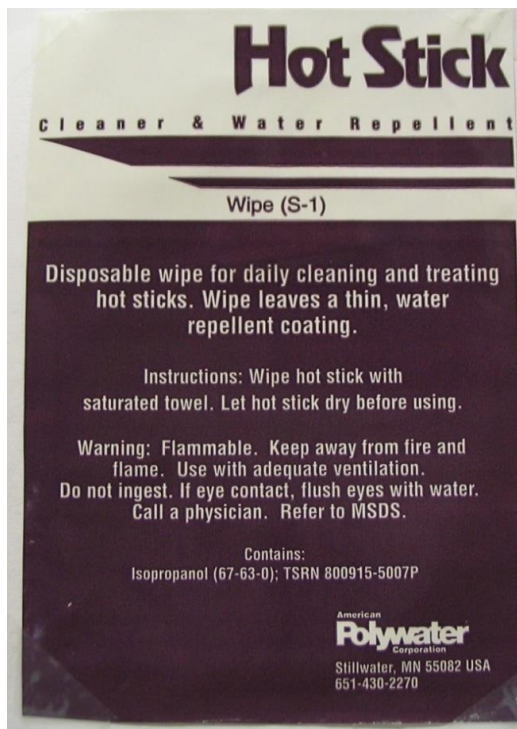
(BWC-640)

The Boom Wash Concentrate is a liquid that is mixed with water (1-part concentrate to 3 or 5 parts water) to make a mild water-based boom cleaner. Once rinsed and dried, the boom can be waxed and treated with an S-1wipe.

## Fibreglass Wax and Buff Kit (W-1)



The Fibreglass Wax and Buff kit is a convenient package containing a lint-free wipe saturated with a fast-hazing fibreglass wax plus a soft lint-free towel for buffing the wax to a shine. The wax is easy to apply and buffs to a durable water-resistant surface. The kit is suitable for use on non-conductive fibreglass booms and hot sticks.



### Hot Stick Wipe (S-1)

Disposable wipe for daily cleaning and treating of Hot Sticks. Wipe leaves a thin, water repellent coating.