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Foam Cleaner Minimizes Damage To Paint

Instead of scrubbing or spraying dirty tractors, combines or other equipment, you can foam them using Dakota Ag's foam, says Lynn Odland, President of Dakota Ag Innovations. Grime, grease and contaminants are cleaned off without harming electronics or paint in half the time of regular power washing. Dakota Wash HD includes derivatives of soy and corn in its formulations.

He first used the ag ingredients to create Dakota Shine 22 years ago (FARM SHOW Vol. 31, No. 6), which brings life back to faded, dull paint. It's sold in 26 countries for construction and ag equipment clean-up.

"Out of necessity, we came up with Power of Foam. Customers needed a faster and more effective way to get rid of grime and crud. Most heavy degreasers are alkaline based and the more you use them the duller paint gets. Also, whenever you power wash equipment (3,000 psi or more), the pressure can damage electronics," he says. "Dakota Wash gently lifts contaminants and cuts wash time in half. Many of the major equipment OEMs are already using it."

There are two application options. For customers who only need it occasionally to clean skid steers, trucks or farm equipment, the Power Cannon quick attaches to a power

washer wand. The concentrate in the bottle mixes with the water and it only takes a couple of minutes to foam a tractor. After a couple of more minutes, when the foam starts sliding, rinse it off from the bottom up with the regular pressure washer nozzle. The Power Cannon (\$90) comes with a gallon of concentrate, enough to do two combines.

A Wall Unit foam package (\$1,800) is available for larger fleets. It connects to an air compressor and pulls 5 gals. of concentrate mixed with 50 gals. of water out of a drum and includes a 75-ft. hose capable of blowing foam 25 ft.

"One of the important things we found is that Dakota Wash HD neutralizes farm chemicals and fertilizers," Odland says.

"We are truly ag-powered. Power of Foam is biodegradable, user-friendly and non-hazardous," he concludes.

The website includes videos of it in use along with other products, including the aluminum cleaner being used on grain and stock trailers. Products can be ordered through the website or at many dealer locations found on the site's store locator.

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Weatherproof Power And Light Pole

Tom Hohl built a sturdy, weatherproof power and light pole for his backyard to provide trouble-free service in all kinds of weather.

"We get plenty of rain, damp weather and wind in the woods about 7 mos. of the year and during the other five there's snow and ice, so I needed a light pole that could handle all those conditions," Hohl says. His solution consists of a 16-ft. long green treated 4 by 6 pole that carries 20-amp power through waterproof conduit to an outlet, switch and two high-intensity LED lights. The outlet/switch box and lights are covered with metal roofing left over from when he built a covered woodshed and sugar shack.

His backyard power station gets plenty of use because the light illuminates his wood-burning stove, wood piles and woodshed. "We check and restock the stove every night during the 8-mo. heating season. The high-intensity LEDs provide excellent light in a 75-ft. arc so we can always see what we're doing without using a flashlight," Hohl says.

He uses the outlet to run power tools in the yard and to operate his sap pump in the spring when they make maple syrup. The sturdy pole is set 4 ft. deep in the ground and surrounded by concrete, so it isn't going anywhere anytime soon. "The poplars and pine sway in the wind, but this post doesn't move a bit," he adds.



Left-over metal from other building projects protects Tom Hohl's power pole light and fixture from moisture and snow.

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Pearcy made the three 12-ft. long shelves out of 1 by 12's left over from another project. He added vertical boards and diagonal bracing to prevent sagging and 2-ft. boards on the 4-ft. ends for stability.

Central Shelves Keep His Shop Organized

Keep your portable power tools organized on a freestanding shelf rack in the center of your shop. It's such a simple idea, that Charles Pearcy, 81, can't figure out why he didn't do it a long time ago.

"I got tired of looking for tools all over the shop," says the Weatherford, Texas, woodworker. He and a friend, Jeff Meador, build rustic furniture out of mesquite and pecan wood and iron and have several cutting and sanding tools and supplies.

The shelf is located between two rows of large power tools, most of which are on castors so they can be moved easily.

Pearcy made the three 12-ft. long shelves out of 1 by 12's left over from another project.

He added vertical boards and diagonal bracing to prevent sagging and 2-ft. boards on the 4-ft. ends for stability. Tools are easy to access from both sides of the rack. The vertical ends also work well to hang measuring tools.

Besides being able to find tools, the handy shelves keep Pearcy motivated to put everything away at the end of the day.

"All in all, it works well in my shop, saving me steps and time hunting tools. I only wish I'd thought of it sooner," he says.

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Blower Brush Makes Cleanup Easier

"When using my leaf blower to clean up around the garage, porch, or outdoors, I often have to stop and get a broom to clean away cobwebs, stubborn dirt, and debris in corners that the blower just won't move," says Ben Parks, Austin, Texas.

"So, I hit on the idea of attaching a large paintbrush to the end of the nozzle with a sheet metal screw and large hose clamp. It works well.

"Now when using the blower, I can sweep and blow at the same time to get cobwebs and other debris, and it doesn't affect the blower when used for regular blowing. Works great. You could also attach a whisk broom."

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Parks added a brush to his blower to help with dust and cobwebs.



Rolling mower carrier allows for easy storage and retrieval.

Roll Away Rotary Mower

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "I store my Woods rotary mower in the lower level of my barn, but my tractor ROPS prevents backing in with it. I built this simple carrier to move the mower in and out.

"I sandwiched two 6-ft. scrap 2 by 6's and nailed them to two 2-ft. 4 by 4-in. cross ties to which I attached casters.

"The carrier lets me back up to the doorway, raise the mower and slip the support under both edges of the 5-ft. deck.

"Once the mower is lowered onto the carrier, I unhook it from the pto. It's easy to push into storage and later back into position for mounting. My only cost was the casters."