



Water-Fed Pole Critical Road Signage Cleaning

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Introduction

Maintaining clean and visible signage is crucial for road safety and regulatory compliance. Clean signs ensure that drivers and pedestrians can clearly see and follow important information and warnings, reducing the risk of accidents.

How Does It Work?

Water (H₂O) is one of the smallest molecules in nature. By using a filter with pores small enough to allow only H₂O molecules to pass through, impurities can be removed from the water. This process, combined with deionisation using ion exchange resins, results in 99.9% pure water. Deionisation involves passing water through filters containing ion exchange resins, which exchange ions in the water with ions from the resin, effectively removing unwanted charged particles. When combined with a reverse osmosis unit, this process produces water pure enough for effective signage cleaning.

Legal Requirement For Maintaining Visibility of Road Signs

Maintaining the visibility of road signs is a legal requirement to ensure the safety of drivers and pedestrians. Clear and readable signs are essential for providing accurate information and warnings, which help in preventing accidents and ensuring smooth traffic flow. Regular cleaning of these signs is crucial to comply with safety regulations and to avoid potential legal liabilities.

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01204 522 111 | www.pnpcleaning.co.uk | office@pnpcleaning.co.uk



Health & Safety Regulations for Water-Fed Pole Systems

UK health and safety regulations, particularly the Work at Height Regulations 2005, emphasise that work at height must be avoided where possible. Water-fed pole systems allow for cleaning at height from the ground, significantly reducing the risk of falls and associated injuries. This method aligns with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines, which stress the importance of using safe systems of work to prevent falls ([HSE](#)) ([UK Rules](#)).

Your Signage Will Stay Cleaner For Longer

Traditional cleaning methods often use detergents that leave behind a sticky residue, which attracts and holds dirt and pollutants. This residue can quickly make signs appear dirty again, requiring more frequent cleaning. Pure water cleaning eliminates the use of detergents and soap. Since pure water lacks the minerals and impurities found in tap water, it does not leave any residue on surfaces. When signs are cleaned with pure water, the absence of sticky soap residue means that dirt and pollutants find it much harder to adhere to the surface, keeping your signage cleaner for a longer period. Additionally, pure water has a natural property to attract dirt and impurities. As it strives to return to its impure state, pure water effectively lifts and removes dirt from the surface. This means that even microscopic particles of dirt are washed away, resulting in a thoroughly clean surface that stays cleaner longer compared to conventional methods.

Reaches Previously Inaccessible Signs

We can now safely and effectively reach previously inaccessible signs, such as those above roofs or in other hard-to-reach areas. This capability ensures that all signs, regardless of their location, can be maintained in optimal condition, enhancing overall road safety and appearance.

Maintenance Plans and Schedules

We recommend a cleaning schedule of every two years to maintain optimal visibility and cleanliness of your signage. This regular maintenance helps prevent the buildup of dirt and grime, ensuring that your signs remain clear and effective. Our planned approach ensures consistency and reliability, helping to extend the lifespan of your signage and keep it in prime condition.

In-House Local Authority Consultant to Guide Your Highway Maintenance Strategy

To further support your highway maintenance efforts, we offer in-house consultancy services. Our experienced consultants (25+ years of Local Authority Highways Experience) work closely with your team to develop and implement effective maintenance strategies, ensuring your roads are always in optimal condition. Trust P&P Cleaning to be your partner in maintaining safe and well-kept highways.



Health & Safety Requirements for Working on Roads and Public Footpaths

For short-duration tasks lasting 5-15 minutes, detailed traffic management might not be necessary, but safety measures are essential. According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines:

- 1. Highly Visible Vehicles:** All our vans are equipped with high-visibility chevrons and beacons, ensuring maximum visibility and safety during highway maintenance. This not only helps in alerting other road users but also enhances the overall safety of our operations.
- 2. High-Visibility Clothing:** To further enhance safety, all our staff members are equipped with full-length, 2-ring, (EN 20471:2013) highway hi-vis gear. This ensures that our team is easily seen by motorists and pedestrians, reducing the risk of accidents and improving the efficiency of our work on busy roads.
- 3. Warning Signs:** Place portable warning signs a short distance ahead of the work area to alert drivers to the presence of workers.
- 4. Cones and Barriers:** Use cones or temporary barriers to mark off the work area if it is safe to do so, providing a buffer between workers and traffic.
- 5. Lookout:** Have a designated lookout person to watch for oncoming traffic and alert workers if a vehicle is approaching too closely.
- 6. Risk Assessment:** Conduct a brief risk assessment before starting work to identify any immediate dangers and determine the safest approach ([HSE](#)) ([HSE](#)) ([UK Rules](#)).

Increased Lifespan of Vinyl

Regular cleaning with pure water can significantly increase the lifespan of vinyl signs. Dirt, grime, and pollutants can degrade the vinyl material over time, causing it to fade and deteriorate. Additionally, many road signs are made with reflective materials to enhance visibility at night. Cleaning these reflective surfaces is crucial to maintain their effectiveness, as dirt and grime can reduce their reflectivity, compromising nighttime visibility. By maintaining clean surfaces, the integrity and appearance of the vinyl are preserved, leading to longer-lasting signs and reduced replacement costs.

Environmental Benefits

Pure water cleaning offers significant environmental benefits:

- 1. Elimination of Chemicals:**
 - Traditional cleaning methods often rely on detergents and chemicals, which can run off into the environment, contaminating soil and waterways. Pure water cleaning eliminates the need for these substances, reducing pollution and protecting ecosystems.
- 2. Reduced Water Usage:**
 - Pure water systems are designed to be efficient, often using less water than traditional cleaning methods. This conservation is particularly important in areas where water resources are limited.



3. Energy Efficiency:

- By using deionisation and reverse osmosis, pure water systems can operate efficiently without the need for heated water, thereby conserving energy.

4. Sustainable Practice:

- Using pure water for cleaning aligns with sustainable practices by minimising the environmental footprint. This method supports environmental regulations and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

If all cleaning companies adopted this technology, the cumulative environmental benefits would be substantial, contributing to cleaner water sources and reduced chemical use across industries.

Insurance

The emphasis on safety in signage cleaning has led to increased insurance premiums. Insurance policies now often require adherence to health and safety legislation. If an accident occurs while using a ladder, the insurance may not cover it if safety protocols are not followed. This is a serious concern. By using water-fed pole systems, we ensure compliance with safety standards, thereby reducing risks and potentially lowering insurance costs.

At P&P Cleaning, we understand the importance of trust and security when it comes to maintaining public infrastructure. That's why we are proud to offer a substantial £10 million public liability cover as part of our commitment to safety and reliability.

Pragmatic Approach

Ladder use is acceptable if no viable alternative exists. We assess each location individually, finding that using water-fed poles reduces risk and improves cleaning quality. We dedicate the necessary time and effort to ensure your signs are thoroughly cleaned during the first visit, avoiding any need for repeated cleaning sessions.

Vegetation Management

In addition to cleaning, we also offer trimming services for low-level, thin branches, bushes, and trees that hang over signs and obstruct views. This comprehensive approach ensures that your signage remains visible and effective. By managing the surrounding vegetation, we help maintain clear sightlines for drivers and pedestrians, further enhancing road safety.

Enhanced Public Image

Keeping road signs clean and well-maintained not only improves safety but also enhances the public image of local councils. Clean, visible signage reflects a commitment to maintaining public infrastructure and shows that the council is conscientious and dedicated to the well-being of its community.

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Unique Service in the Northwest

We are proud to be the only company in the Northwest offering this comprehensive signage cleaning and vegetation management service. Our unique approach combines advanced cleaning technology with meticulous attention to detail, ensuring the highest standards of cleanliness and safety.

Tracking and Documentation

To ensure transparency and accountability, we track our vehicle locations and log before and after photos in our internal system. This documentation provides a clear record of the work completed and demonstrates our commitment to quality and thoroughness.

Contact Information

For more information or to schedule a cleaning, please contact us at:

- Phone: 01204 522 111
- Email: office@pnpcleaning.co.uk
- Address: P&P Cleaning Services Ltd, Bolton