

Can the Drop In R/C Tire Washer clean a 1/8 Truggy tire?

Answer: The current version can handle a 1/8 truggy tire, but you won't be able to close the lid quite all the way. Set the side brushes in the outer slots, and expect some splashing from the open lid, but it's still better than washing by hand!

Should I add Simple Green or other cleaner to the water?

Answer: I just use plain tap water in my Tire Washer, but I do use Simple Green. I place the tire in the washer, leave the lid open, and spray the tire with Simple Green while turning the rollers with the drill and the PUMP OFF. I then run the drill and pump normally to finish the job.

How often should I change the water?

Answer: I usually empty the water at the end of the race day, but I have gone 2 or 3 race days without changing it. It will depend on how muddy the water gets. If the mud level gets too deep, it will clog up the pump inlet and the sprayer will stop.

How should I clean the washer?

Remove your drill and 12 volt power and flush it with a garden hose. All parts are plastic, aluminum, or stainless steel. The pump and relay are also waterproof, so a good hose job won't hurt it.

What maintenance is required?

Other than cleaning, the Oilite bearings on the roller shafts are the only other maintenance items. They should be cleaned and lubed periodically. I prefer to use Red & Tacky grease, but light oil like 3-in-one will also work. How often? When you hear excess noise or squeaking, it's time to clean & lube the bearings.

What are the LiPo requirements?

I had some questions on the power requirements for the Drop In RC Tire Washer from buyers that are looking to buy a Lipo battery. The windshield washer pump that provides the water pressure for the spray head is designed to run on a 12 volts D.C. (vdc) car battery. A 3s lipo is perfect for this as they output 12.6 vdc when fully charged. Look on Amazon, or A-Main and you will find a variety of 3s Lipo's in various capacities and C-ratings. It can get confusing.

First let's talk about capacity, and use a 2200 mah Lipo as an example. This is a 2 amp hour battery (2.2 to be precise), which means it will output 2.2 amps for 1 hour. The pump motor draws 4 amps briefly at startup, and 3 amps when running. That means our 2.2-amp battery will run the pump for 40 minutes. If you run the pump for 5 seconds per tire, you could wash 480 tires before the 2.2-amp Lipo was exhausted and needs to be recharged. In other words, if you are an Iron Man like Daren Dornack, and like to run 6 classes at a big oval race, you would need to wash (6 classes x 3 races x 4 tires = 72) 72 tires for the race day. Even if your 3 buddies used your Tire Washer you would still have plenty of battery for the day. As you can see, a 2200 mah Lipo is more than adequate.

How about C rating? This is all about the discharge rating of the Lipo. A 10C rating means the battery can output its capacity (2.2 amps) times 10 or 22 amps for the 2200 mah lipo we used above. Since the pump motor draws 3 amps when running, a 10C rated battery is more than enough. For the record, the lowest C rating currently available is 25C, which is why we said that C-rating doesn't matter.

You should be able to find several low cost 3s LiPo's on Amazon or your favorite RC website for under \$20. Just remember that the Tire washer doesn't have a low voltage cutoff function, so it is possible to completely drain a lipo, which could ruin it. If you haven't charged in a while and the pump is slowing down, it's time.

Why doesn't the Drop-In R/C Tire Washer use an R/C car motor to drive the rollers?

Like most racers, I have old R/C motors laying around, but more than a motor is needed. Since most R/C motors turn at 25,000 RPM or more, a gearbox would be required to turn the drive shafts at the desired 1500 RPM. The cost of all this would be way more than the cost of a cordless drill, which most racers already possess.