

# Products

The latest hardware tested and rated by proper experts...

## DIRTWORKER NOMAD £169.99

One of the disadvantages of the original Dirtworker is that it ties you to a power source, usually a car, via its 12V cigarette lighter. As the name suggests you can wander about with the new Nomad because it's powered by an 18V, plug-in battery, which is the same +One NiCad battery used for Ryobi powertools. It's rechargeable in around an hour and has a run time of about 26 minutes, which equates to four tanks of water, but still has the cable for the 12V cigarette lighter should the battery run out of juice.

As you can see, the unit is bulky and at 25kg (55lb) it's a fair weight especially if you live in a flat and have to carry it up and down the stairs. To save your back, the water tank has a shoulder strap and quick releases from the base. There's a filter inside so you can also dunk the tank in a stream, something you can't do with the original Dirtworker.

The hose and gun pack away into a side pocket. The former is 5.90m (20 feet) allowing you to clean your bike without spraying mud onto the unit or your car. The gun is more robust and has better connection with the hose. The spray can be adjusted from a fine mist to a narrow jet. Dirtworker claims a wash pressure of 6.8 bar (or 98psi) which is a lot less than a cheap jet wash, but the premise with this type of pressure washer is that you clean your bike at the trailhead when the mud is still wet and you use a brush. You can't just stand there blasting away because the water won't last long.

There are pros and cons with all types of cleaning devices — a simple bucket and brush is cheap but means you're more hands on with your bike and able to spot any problems. A proper jet wash will shift crusted-on dirt but it can blast water into bearings and past fork seals, plus you need a hose, electricity and it uses quite a bit of water, which in these days of rising utilities can cost more than you imagine. The Nomad uses less water, is portable and it works. It's expensive but a more affordable option may be the original Dirtworker with the new £45 Porta Power Pack. We'll only know for sure when we get all the washers together for a bunch test later in the year. PB



Weight: 25kg (55lb)  
18V battery pack  
14-litre tank capacity  
Orange or green  
Contact: [www.portablepressurewashers.co.uk](http://www.portablepressurewashers.co.uk)

