

Surface Prep Decision Checklist: Wash vs. Blast vs. Combo

Part Condition

1. Is the material new and free of rust/scale?
2. Is there mill scale, rust, or weld burn present?
3. Is incoming material quality consistent?

Application Requirements

1. Is the product for indoor or outdoor use?
2. Is long-term corrosion resistance critical?
3. Are adhesion failures currently an issue?

Production Needs

1. Is high throughput more important than finish durability?
2. Is your process high volume / low mix?
3. Do you need consistent repeatability across varied parts?

Process Limitations

1. Are you seeing rework or coating failures?
2. Are chemicals being overused to compensate?
3. Does your washer struggle with complex geometries?

Decision Guide

1. Mostly YES to clean/new metal - Wash Only
2. YES to rust/scale/issues - Blast
3. YES to durability + inconsistency - Blast + Wash

If you're unsure, that's usually the first sign your process needs improvement.