



Soldiers and their commanders often want their equipment to look bright and shiny for inspections. To achieve that goal, they often employ high-pressure water or steam or take the equipment through wash racks.

That's usually not a bright idea. The cost of a bright, shiny appearance can be many thousands of dollars of ruined electronics equipment.

Most electrical components—like a SINCGARS radio or the MLRS's electronics unit—are built to be **water-resistant**. That means they can survive rain and humidity as long as their gaskets are in good shape. But these gaskets are definitely not designed to seal out high-pressure water. The water pushes past their seals and soon shorts and corrosion start doing their worst. An item like the Patriot's data link terminal module can cost many, many dollars to replace.

So is that bright, shiny appearance worth it? No. And when your commander gets the bill, he definitely won't think it's worth it.

As a general rule, don't use high-pressure water above wheel or track level on wheeled vehicles, tanks and trailers that have electronic gear. Check with the equipment's -10 TM to see if it's OK to run a truck or tracked vehicle through the wash rack. Sometimes it is OK, as long as you cover electronic components first. Never use any hose inside a vehicle or van.

