



Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take to deploy the **First Wash®** Shower for use?

- * Once the Mounting Bracket is affixed to the apparatus, the shower assembly can be mounting and locked in place in seconds. Then using the Quick Connect fittings retrofitted on your Booster or Trash Line, disconnecting from the Nozzle and connecting to the shower takes just a few more seconds.

Can we have one **First Wash®** Shower but multiple Mounting Brackets?

- * Yes. In fact, we encourage multiple fixed Mounting Brackets.

How long should we decon / shower under the **First Wash®** Shower?

- * This depends upon your level of contamination. Department protocols should be written to insure adequate decontamination. Generally speaking, decon can occur within a 15—45 second range.

Can I remove the Face Mask (or other PPE apparel) prior to Showering?

- * We highly recommend that you shower with your complete PPE still on and operational.

Why can't we simply hose each other off?

- * You can, and that is better than nothing. However, that requires 2 people for decontamination. It also requires water pressure to move horizontally to the firefighter. This "pushes" contaminants into the Gear. The **First Wash®** reduces water pressure and gently rinses off contaminants.

If I decontaminate with the **First Wash®** Shower, will my Bunker Gear get so saturated that I may experience Steam Burns entering another fire event prior to swapping out to my 2nd set of Bunker Gear?

- * Quality outer gear is designed to repel 99.5% of water when new and 95% after 20 washes. Any moisture getting to your inner liner should not be penetrating your Inner Liner Vapor Barrier. If so, your PPE should be considered for replacement. Moisture within a proper working Inner Liner is due to firefighter perspiration. A 2012 NIH study found 5% received burns due to sweat. It also found that PPE misuse and non-contiguous areas of protection accounted for 70% of steam burns had occurred due to gaps in the sleeve or face mask.

Additionally, when you experience the beginning sensations of potential steam burns, this signifies you are too close to the fire heat source. Cooling down your surrounding area with water is highly recommended.