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Phyllis Meng, general services supervisor, holds the controls for the swing-stage machine workers will use in cleaning the exterior of the Gateway Tower beginning August 29.

*Photo by
Ned Racine*

Gateway Tower Windows Have a Brighter Future Beginning Aug. 29

By NED RACINE, Editor

(Aug. 28, 2008) Clearly the windows in the Gateway Tower could use a good cleaning, and Aug. 29, after a four-year wait, that cleaning begins.

For the first time since March 2004, a two-person crew will pressure-wash the exterior of the Gateway Tower, windows included.

Besides making everyone's days a little brighter, the exterior cleanup will help preserve the building's exterior. According to Phyllis Meng, general services supervisor and the manager of this Building Services project, Downtown Los Angeles pollution is acidic and attacks the building's limestone and grout sheath.

On a smaller scale, Meng believes the cleaning will reduce the fertile spider population on the tower's north side. Spider lovers will have a chance to admire the [arachnids](#) for a while longer—the south side of the building will be cleaned first.

Using newly certified equipment, workers will work from the top down in cleaning the 27-story building and child care facility. The cleaners are scheduled to complete the work in two weeks.

Cleaning of the inside surface of the windows is scheduled for Sept. 3. Two 2-person teams will accomplish that work. The schedule calls for the inside surfaces of four floors to be cleaned each day. Again, workers will start at the top of the building and work down.

Meng asks that employees remove anything near the windows, so the cleaners can easily reach the glass.

She also asks that office dwellers leave their offices unlocked or leave

their office key with a co-worker. Because workers will be using water, Meng stresses that employees should remove papers near the windows.

Besides workers hanging down the side of the building, another sign of the cleaning will be hoses on the Plaza level as windows on the lower floors are washed.

Is that clear as glass?

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