



# Motor Trade Association of SA Environmental Fact Sheet

## WATER

### Washing money down the drain?

Every drop of water wasted is money gone from your pocket.

### Environmental impacts?

- 70% of the world is covered in water,
- 2.5% of the world's water is freshwater
- 0.007% of the world's water is available for human use

If you wash 10 cars a day for 10 minutes each, 5 days a week for 50 weeks a year:

- using a garden hose you will consume 625,000L of water
- using a High Pressure Cleaner you will consume 275,000L of water

Storm water drains lead to natural water bodies such as lakes, rivers and the sea.

### How can you save water?

Reduce your water use, educate staff about the need to save water.

Use water efficient equipment such as a high pressure cleaner. As an alternative clean cars with waterless cleaning products.

Check your air conditioning system for water leaks. Direct evaporative air conditioning water to the garden or to the sewer.

Other initiatives could include:

- Checking for water leaks
- Installing a rain water tank
- Using water efficient equipment
- Recycling water

### Water restrictions

South Australia is on level 3 water restrictions.

MTA SA members have received a permit from SA Water to allow vehicle washing in specific circumstances.

If water restrictions change permits may no longer apply.

### Washing vehicles

When washing vehicles:

- Use a high pressure low volume trigger gun
- Use a bucket rather than a hose
- Use biodegradable phosphate free detergents
- Use a dedicated wash down bay
- Use a bunded area
- Wash water should not enter storm water
- Wash water should be treated by an oil separator before entering the sewer, a trade waste discharge permit is required from SA water to do this
- Consider using a water recycling system to clean waste water so that it can be reused rather than disposed of

### Any questions call the MTA

Carly Roworth  
Environmental Project Officer  
Motor Trade Association of SA Inc (MTA)  
T: 08 8291 2000  
E: [environment@mta-sa.asn.au](mailto:environment@mta-sa.asn.au)

**The Green Stamp Plus Programme is a joint initiative of MTA-SA and the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.**



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment,  
Water, Heritage and the Arts

