

GPG 29 Drought Water Restrictions



Governing Legislation and Standards:

Water Act 1989

Water Industry Act 1994

Victorian Water Industry Association, Victorian Uniform Drought Water Restriction Guidelines (Sept 2005)



Summary Information:

Detailed water restriction guidelines are published by the Victorian Water Industry Association and are enforced by local authorities. As local water restrictions and penalties may be more severe than the uniform drought guidelines, you must contact your local water authority to determine local requirements.

Drought Water Restriction Guidelines generally apply to all business and domestic and other water users as specified. Drought water restrictions only apply to reticulated potable (tap water) water supply, and do not apply to use of tank water, bore water, recycled or reclaimed water.

Water restrictions do not generally apply to the use of "Production Water" which is used in a process or to make something. The following repair processes are considered to be "Production Water":

- Wet rubbing / Paint preparation / De-nibbing
- Buff compound removal
- Pressure washing engines, components and under vehicle bodies prior to repair
- Adding coolant
- Machinery cutting solution / coolant.
- Removal of wax or road grime from transported vehicles upon receipt only

Other vehicle washing for presentation or aesthetic purposes is not considered to be Production Water.

Stage 3 restrictions prohibit washing cars, other than glass and mirrors for safety reasons, unless a business has a Commercial Car Wash approval from your local authority or a Permanent Bay Car Wash (authorised under the Planning and Environment Act 1987).

Stage 4 restrictions prevent cars from being washed other than for the cleaning of glass or mirrors. The use of "Production Water" is permitted under Stage 4 restrictions.



Further Help:

www.vicwater.org.au, Victorian Uniform Drought Water Restriction Guidelines (Sept 2005)

Your local water authority:

- South East Water, telephone 13 28 12, www.southeastwater.com.au
- City West Water, telephone 13 26 42, www.citywestwater.com.au
- Yarra Valley Water, telephone 13 27 62, www.yvw.com.au

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Good Practice Risk Control:

Exemptions

Exemptions from water restrictions, to cover certain circumstances, can be applied for through your local water business. Businesses who must wash cars to keep people in employment should apply for a commercial car wash approval.

Penalties

Water restrictions must be followed. If you are served with a warning notice and still breach the restrictions, you may have your water supply restricted and face fines or jail.

Definitions

High Pressure Water Cleaning Device means a machine which has a pump to increase the pressure of water delivered from a trigger nozzle, forming part of the device.

Commercial Car Wash means the business has an approval to wash cars issued by a local authority.

Permanent Bay Car Wash means any commercial facility for washing vehicles on any land for which commercial use as a car wash is authorised by a local authority under the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*.

Stage 1, 2, 3 & 4 water restrictions will be announced in local media depending on local weather and water storage conditions. A summary of how the requirements will apply to automotive service businesses follows:

APPLICATION	Motor Vehicle Dealer / Repairer (any automotive business) or Commercial Car Wash (any commercial car washing activity, other than an authorised Permanent Bay Car Wash, but not including the use of Production Water).
STAGE 1	Water <u>must not be used</u> to clean a vehicle <u>except on alternate days</u> by means of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, to pre-rinse and rinse only; or • a high pressure water cleaning device; or • a watering can or bucket filled either by a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or directly from a tap.
STAGE 2	Water <u>must not be used</u> to clean a vehicle <u>except on Mondays and Fridays</u> by means of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high pressure water cleaning device; or • a watering can or bucket filled directly from a tap (and not by means of a hose).
STAGE 3	Water <u>must not be used</u> to clean a vehicle <u>except</u> by means of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a bucket filled directly from a tap (and not by means of a hose): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) to clean vehicle windows, mirrors and lights; and ii) for spot-removing corrosive substances; • Only a Commercial Car Wash or a Permanent Bay Car Wash may use a high pressure water cleaning device.
STAGE 4	Water <u>must not be used to clean any part of a vehicle</u> other than its windows, mirrors and lights, and for substances, and then only with a bucket filled directly from a tap (and not by means of a hose).

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APPLICATION	Permanent Bay Car Wash (Authorised under the Planning and Environment Act 1987) (Not including the use of Production Water)
STAGE 1	A permanent bay car wash may operate at any time.
STAGE 2	A permanent bay car wash must not operate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unless it will not use more than 100 litres of water that is not water recycled by the carwash for every vehicle washed; or • except in accordance with a Water Conservation Plan, prepared by the operator and approved by the local authority.
STAGE 3	A permanent bay car wash must not operate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unless it will not use more than 70 litres of water that is not water recycled by the carwash for every vehicle washed; or • except in accordance with a Water Conservation Plan, prepared by the operator and approved by the local authority.
STAGE 4	A Permanent bay car wash must not use water to clean any part of a vehicle other than its windows, mirrors and lights, and then only with a bucket filled directly from a tap and not by means of a hose.

Stages 1, 2, 3 & 4

- **Food Transport Vehicle** - Water must not be used to clean inside a food transport vehicle except by means of a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, and only if such cleaning is necessary, either to avoid contamination of the vehicle's contents, or to ensure public safety
- **Boat Motors** - Water must not be used to clean any part of a vessel, except to flush its inboard or outboard motor by means of a hand-held hose in order to prevent it corroding. Water must be turned off at the tap, immediately after flushing is complete.
- **Hard Surface** - Water must not be used to clean a hard surface unless cleaning is required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency, and a held-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle is used.

Please contact your local water authority for further information regarding drought water restrictions.

Refer To: GPG 30 Commercial Car Wash Applications for further information regarding how to apply to your local water authority for a Commercial Car Wash approval.