

GPG 3 Washing Vehicles



Governing Legislation and Standards:

Environment Protection Act
Water Industry Act
State Environment Protection Policy (The Waters of Victoria)
Local Council Regulations
Water Authority Regulations
Victorian Uniform Drought Water Restriction Guidelines



Summary Information:

Vehicles must only be washed in accordance with EPA requirements and drought water restrictions.

You are not permitted to allow soapy water to enter stormwater drains. Even biodegradable soaps must not be allowed to enter stormwater.

You are responsible to control all wastewater generated by washing vehicles to prevent pollution reaching stormwater drains.

Visible entrances to the stormwater system include; side entry pits, kerbs, gutters and stormwater drainpipes. They all lead directly into waterways and eventually into the sea.

You may only discharge wastewater into the sewer if you have a Trade Waste Agreement or prior approval from the relevant water authority.

If your premises are not connected to the sewerage system, then wastewater should be directed to a septic tank. You need a permit for any septic tank with a volume that is less than 5000 litres and a licence for tanks over 5000 litres.

You may wash up to 3 vehicles per day on grass, or on a gravelled area, that is at least 3 times the area of the vehicle, provided that wastewater does not drain off into stormwater drains or gutters.

Vehicle washing with reticulated water is subject to drought water restrictions.

Contact your local water authority for further detail re car washing restrictions.

Refer to GPG 29 Drought Water Restrictions and GPG 30 Commercial Car Wash Applications for further information regarding the use of reticulated water for washing cars during drought water restrictions.



Further Help:

EPA Victoria, telephone 03 9695 2777 www.epa.vic.gov.au

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:

- Subcontract car washing to an existing permanent bay car wash facility; or
- Obtain a permit for a Commercial Car Wash from your local water authority.
- Do not use any detergent for any washing activities if the water run-off will enter the driveway, forecourt or any stormwater drains.
- Use biodegradable and quick break detergents (but remember that this does not mean that wastewater can drain to stormwater).
- Ask your water authority about the minimum requirements for car wash discharge to sewer (a silt trap maybe acceptable if no oil or grease is present).
- Use a dedicated wash facility that prevents wastewater run off.
- Create a roofed, bunded concrete pad that drains to the sewer via a silt trap or a triple interceptor trap.
- Attach trigger action nozzles to your hoses to reduce water usage.
- Use a high pressure low volume wash machine in compliance with car washing restrictions.
- Up to three cars per day may be washed on a grassed or gravel area.
- Do not wash vehicles in the street or driveway where water runs to stormwater.
- Only discharge the sewer if you have a Trade Waste Agreement or prior approval from the relevant authority.
- Recycle wastewater by using equipment that allows you to remove contaminants from water.
- Wash vehicles only in compliance with applicable water restrictions.
- Collect and use rainwater for vehicle washing to avoid water restriction requirements.