

GPG 30 Commercial Car Wash Applications



Governing Legislation and Standards:

Water Act 1989

Water Industry Act 1994

Victorian Water Industry Association Uniform Drought Water Restrictions Guidelines



Summary Information:

Stage 3 Drought Water restrictions generally prohibit washing of cars with potable reticulated water (tap water) for presentation or aesthetic purposes.

“Production Water” for the purpose of manufacturing or repair, or for the cleaning of glass and mirrors for safety purposes is allowed, but does not include car washing. Refer to GPG 29 Drought Water Restrictions for further information regarding the use of the “Production Water”.

Automotive repair businesses may apply to local water authorities to become a Commercial Car Wash if the employment of people is threatened by not being able to wash vehicles during Drought Water Restrictions.

The success of an application for a Commercial Car Wash will depend upon your business meeting criteria including:

- Proving that the employment of employees of your business is threatened by not being able to wash cars for aesthetic or presentation purposes.
- Having procedures that minimise and limit your use of tap water per car
- Recycling water where possible
- Managing waste water discharge appropriately
- Having your car wash system independently audited
- Keeping records which prove your on-going compliance with this criteria.



Further Help:

Local Water Authority

VACC Environment Unit, telephone 03 9829 1138

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Good Practice:

- Sub let all vehicle washing; **or**
- Use only recycled water or ground water for washing; **or**
- Where automotive retail or repair businesses can demonstrate that employment of people is adversely effected by Stage 3 Water Restrictions, you may apply to your Local Water Authority for a Commercial Car Wash approval.
- Application can be made by downloading: **Commercial Car Wash - Stages 2 and 3 Water Restrictions Water Conservation Plan Report**, from your local Water Authority.

This application refers to a **Water Conservation Plan** and the **Water Rating Scheme**, developed by the **Smart Water Fund** and the **Australian Car Wash Association**, which is available only to members of the Australian Car Wash Association. Alternatively, businesses may apply for a Commercial Car Wash as follows:

- Complete the **Commercial Car Wash Application Form**
- Select Option 2 and prepare a **Water Conservation Plan** stating the following:
 - > Why you are making the application (evidence regarding the number of cars that need to be washed and the frequency of washing);
 - > Proof of which individuals are employed solely to wash cars and whose employment is now jeopardised;
 - > How you will ensure that only 70 litres or less of tap water per vehicle is used;
 - > How your vehicle washing process will be documented;
 - > How trade waste water will be collected (and recycled if possible);
 - > How trade waste water be discharged to the sewer (and not to storm water);
 - > How you will have your vehicle wash system audited by an independent third party;
 - > How your records will prove that your Vehicle Wash system will continue to operate in compliance with your Water Conservation Plan;
 - > What other water management controls you can implement to use less water in your business;
 - > How you will display signage that advertises your Water Conservation Plan including the audited amount of potable water used per vehicle.

Contact the VACC Environment Unit for further information regarding Commercial Car Wash or Permanent Bay Car Wash applications.