



Water restrictions for Motor Vehicle Dealers, Commercial Car Washes and Hard Surfaces

The table below has been extracted from the *Victorian Uniform Drought Water Restriction Guidelines*. It details the restrictions on the use of water during times of water restrictions in Victoria. These Guidelines should be followed hand in hand with local water restrictions enforced by your local water authority.

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Motor Vehicle Dealer	<p>Water must not be used to clean vehicles in a motor vehicle dealership except on alternate days, by means of:</p> <p>(a) a hand held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle; or (b) a commercial car wash referred to in item 14; or (c) a watering can or bucket filled either by a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or directly from a tap.</p>	<p>Water must not be used to clean vehicles in a motor vehicle dealership except on Mondays and Fridays, and then only by means of:</p> <p>(a) a high pressure water cleaning device; or (b) a commercial car wash referred to in item 14; or (c) a watering can or bucket filled directly from a tap (and not by means of a hose).</p>	<p>Water must not be used to clean any part of a vehicle in a motor vehicle dealership other than its windows, mirrors and lights, and then only by means of a bucket filled directly from a tap (and not by means of a hose).</p>	<p>Water must not be used to clean any part of a vehicle in a motor vehicle dealership other than its windows, mirrors and lights, and then only by means of a bucket filled directly from a tap (and not by means of a hose).</p>
<p>Commercial Car Wash</p> <p>(Permanent bay car wash means any commercial facility for washing vehicles on any land for which commercial use as a car wash is authorised under the Planning & Environment Act 1987)</p>	<p>(1) A commercial car wash (other than a permanent bay car wash) must not use water to clean vehicles, except by means of:</p> <p>(a) a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle to pre-rinse and rinse only; or (b) a watering can or bucket filled either by a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle, or directly from a tap.</p> <p>(2) A permanent bay car wash may operate at any time.</p>	<p>(1) A commercial car wash (other than a permanent bay car wash) must not use water to clean vehicles except by means of:</p> <p>(a) a high pressure water cleaning device; or (b) a watering can or bucket filled directly from a tap (and not by means of a hose).</p> <p>(2) A permanent bay car wash must not operate:</p> <p>(a) unless it will not use more than 100 litres of water that is not water recycled by the car wash, for every vehicle washed; or (b) except in accordance with a Water Conservation Plan, prepared by the operator and approved by <i>[Insert name of licensee or Authority]</i>.</p>	<p>(1) A commercial car wash (other than a permanent bay car wash) must not use water to clean vehicles except by means of a high pressure water cleaning device.</p> <p>(2) A permanent bay car wash must not operate:</p> <p>(a) unless it will not use more than 70 litres of water that is not water recycled by the car wash, for every vehicle washed; or (b) except in accordance with a Water Conservation Plan, prepared by the operator and approved by <i>[Insert name of licensee or Authority]</i>.</p>	<p>(1) A commercial car wash (other than 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).</p> <p>(2) 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).</p>

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<p>Hard Surface</p> <p>(Includes any courtyard, decking, footpath, driveway or other area, with a concrete, asphalt, brick, tile, bitumen, timber or similar impervious surface)</p>	<p>Water must not be used to clean a hard surface unless cleaning is required as a result of:</p> <p>(a) an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency, and a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle is used; or (b) construction or renovation work to the hard surface, and a high pressure water cleaning device is used.</p>	<p>Water must not be used to clean a hard surface unless cleaning is required as a result of:</p> <p>(a) an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency, and a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle is used; or (b) construction or renovation work to the hard surface, and a high pressure water cleaning device is used.</p>	<p>Water must not be used to clean hard surfaces unless cleaning is required as a result of:</p> <p>(a) an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency and a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle is used; or (b) construction or renovation work to the surface and a high pressure water cleaning device is used.</p>	<p>Water must not be used to clean hard surfaces unless cleaning is required as a result of:</p> <p>(a) an accident, fire, health hazard, safety hazard or other emergency, and a hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle is used.</p>
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*Please note that these restrictions may change in the future, depending on local conditions.

Applying to become a Commercial Carwash

Automotive repair businesses may apply to become a Commercial Carwash if the employment of people is threatened by not being able to wash vehicles during the Victorian Drought Water Restrictions. The success of an application to become a Commercial Carwash will depend upon your business meeting various criteria including.

These include:

- 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 trade wastewater discharge appropriately,
- Having your car wash system independently audited,
- Keeping records which prove your on-going compliance with these criteria.

In order to become a Commercial Carwash the business will have to complete a **Waste Conservation Plan**. A Water Conservation Plan can be prepared either in accordance with the Water Rating Scheme developed by the Smart Water Fund and the Australian Car Wash Association, or independently.

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Further Information



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Phone: (03) 9695 2722

www.epa.vic.gov.au

Our Water Our Future

Phone: 136 186

www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/

Water Authorities (Victoria Online)

www.vic.gov.au/business-industry/utilities-energy/water-authorities.html

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**Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic.
Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.**