

Appendix E:**Suggested Best Management Practices for Commercial Carwash Facilities**

The amount of water used by carwash facilities varies with the type of facility, the cleaning system used, and the utilization of water reclamation and recycling processes. And while recycling can greatly reduce the volume of M&I water used, there are many other ways in which carwash facilities can save water.

Commercial carwash facilities also include carwashes at service stations, carwash facilities at automobile dealerships and automobile rental outlets, fleet carwashes, mobile washes, and other commercial operations where automobile, truck, trailer, boat, airplane, or other type of equipment washing occurs as part of a normal business.

All Carwash Facilities

- Maintain all water devices and equipment to original or improved specifications at all times
- Modify existing carwashes to recycle as much water as possible
- Replace all nozzles annually
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- Install automatic shutoff valves or preset timers on faucets and hoses
- Minimize dripping by replacing or maintaining positive-cutoff or solenoid valves at all control points for prewash, wash, hot wax, and rinse
- Conduct regular checks for leakage and maintenance of all water-using equipment
- Install positive shut-off valves on all wringer sinks
- Fit all hoses with positive pressure nozzles or automatic timer shut-offs; never leave open hoses unattended
- Sweep out bays before washing them; use high-pressure wands instead of hoses
- Avoid using water to wash impervious surfaces
- Install water-efficient faucets and toilets

In addition to implementing the above practices, utilize the following for specific facilities

Self-serve

- Set a maximum flow of 3.5 gallons per nozzle
- Turn off spot-free rinse or recycle reject water

- Install a weep management system
- Install automatic shutoff valves on hoses or preset timers for self-serve car wash systems
- Do not utilize unlimited-timed cycles

In-Bay Automatic

- Ensure that the direction, arch, and timing of sprays on automatic car washes are properly set and that they shut off when no longer in contact with the vehicle
- Set timers to create a minimum 5-second dwell time for water to run off into the bay before exiting
- Calibrate spray bars to use no more than 55 gallons per basic wash
- Reduce rinse cycles to no more than 40 seconds per vehicle

Conveyor Systems

- Install automatic high-level water cut-offs in all towel and chamois washing machines
- Take advantage of gravity; place bigger nozzles on top and smaller nozzles on the sides
- Increase conveyor speed to reduce rinse cycles to no more than 40 seconds per vehicle
- Reduce prepping; turn off prep guns where possible
- Utilize high pressure prep guns or brushes to pre-wash or prep vehicles; avoid using hoses
- Reduce tip size and operating pressure in detail prep guns

Mobile Washes

- Spray nozzles and pressure settings will be maintained to deliver no more than 3 gpm
- Wastewater will be captured and disposed of at a properly licensed disposal facility as approved by the SLC Department of Public Utilities

Charity Carwash Program

It is encouraged that all charity carwash events partner with commercial carwash facilities which have implemented these BMPs. During water shortages, charity carwash events may be prohibited. For information on current water supply conditions, or for a listing of participating commercial carwashes, contact the Water Conservation Office at 801.483.6860.