

Washing Vehicles

Where can I wash my customers' vehicles on site?

If your business chooses to wash vehicles on site this must be done in a designated wash bay that is bunded or sloped inwards (eg. contains run-off from the immediate area) and drains to the sewer via an oil water separator or a triple interceptor pit.

If the business does not have an oil water separator or triple interceptor, the washing of vehicles has to be conducted on a surface (gravel or grass) with no risk of run-off to any nearby stormwater drains.

What do I need to remember when washing vehicles?

- You are not permitted to allow soapy water to enter stormwater drains. Even biodegradable soaps must not be allowed to enter stormwater.
- Visible entrances to the stormwater system include: side entry pits, kerbs, gutters and stormwater drainpipes. All lead directly into waterways and into the sea.
- You may only discharge wastewater into the sewer if you have a Trade Waste Agreement or prior approval from your local water authority. Otherwise, you will need an EPA approved transporter to collect the wastewater.
- If your premises is 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 5,000 litres, and a licence for tanks over 5,000 litres.

Ways to reduce water consumption and environmental impact

- If possible, subcontract vehicle washing to an existing car wash facility.
- Attach trigger action nozzles to hoses.
- Use a high pressure low volume wash machine in compliance with car washing restrictions.
- Do not wash vehicles in the street or driveway where water runs to stormwater.
- Recycle wastewater by using equipment that allows you to remove contaminants from water.
- Collect and use rainwater for vehicle washing to avoid water restrictions and costs. Your business could do this by installing rainwater tanks.

Note

For further details and information regarding vehicle washing and water restrictions contact your local water authority.



Click on the barcode provided or download a free QR Code scanner from the App Store to view the video.