



Water Conservation Statement

Southwest Car Wash Association

Water is a precious resource that we must all work together to protect and conserve.

The Southwest Car Wash Association (SCWA) and the professional car wash industry have long been leaders in water conservation. Our industry has consistently promoted environmentally responsible practices, including the use of eco-friendly soaps and rinses, advanced water-saving technologies, reclamation systems, and low-flow nozzles.

While conservation has always been a priority, we have not always effectively communicated these efforts to the public and policymakers. The SCWA Water Alliance is created to highlight the industry's significant conservation achievements and to raise awareness about the relatively low water usage of professional car washes compared to other common activities.

Research conducted across the country reveals several important facts:

- Professional car washes typically account for less than 1% of total water utility demand. The majority of modern car wash facilities return gallons of water back to the utility treatment system free of solids.
- Regulations that restrict or close car washes often lead to increased home driveway washing. Washing a vehicle at home can use up to **10 times more water** than a professional car wash and allows pollutants—such as metals and hydrocarbons—to flow untreated into storm drains.
- Self-serve car washes use approximately 12 gallons of water per wash.
- Conveyor car washes use about 30 - 40 gallons per wash without use of water recycling conservation systems.
- Facilities with water recycling conservation systems can reuse 50–60% of water, resulting in an average of just 13 – 15 gallons of fresh water and 17 - 19 gallons of recycled water per wash.
- In many states, car washing is recognized as an “essential service” that supports public health, safety, and the operational readiness of first responders.
- Most car manufacturers advise regular vehicle cleaning to ensure that proximity devises, cameras, and other safety equipment/systems continue to operate accurately and safely.
- Shutting down professional car wash facilities undermines the local economy by eliminating jobs, reducing business activity, impacting the community safety and weakening the broader community they help sustain.

The SCWA Water Alliance provides communities and policymakers with practical, balanced approaches to drought management and water conservation. These strategies support responsible water use while ensuring fair and equitable treatment of all businesses. We look forward to working closely with all communities to achieve these common goals.