



Puget Sound Car Wash Association

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10 FACTS ABOUT PROFESSIONAL CAR WASHING AND WATER CONSUMPTION

- FACT 1:** AS MANY AS 140 GALLONS OF WATER CAN BE USED IN A 10 MINUTE HOME CAR WASH, MOST OF IT WASHED DOWN THE DRIVEWAY.
- FACT 2:** A PROFESSIONAL CAR WASH USES FROM 8-60 GALLONS PER CAR (DEPENDING ON THE EQUIPMENT USED AND DEPENDING UPON WHETHER THE CAR WASH IS A SELF SERVICE OR CONVEYOR WASH).
- FACT 3:** WATER CONSUMED PER VEHICLE AT PROFESSIONAL CAR WASHES:
- TYPE OF WASHES AND GALLONS PER CAR:
- SELF SERVICE 8 -18, CONVEYORWASH 14 – 60, IN BAY AUTOMATIC 10 – 50, HOME CAR WASHING 80 – 140
- FACT 4:** SOAP, SURFACTANTS, OIL, AND SLUDGE FROM HOME AND PARKING LOT WASHING FLOWS DIRECTLY INTO THE ENVIRONMENT, OR INTO STORM DRAINS THAT ARE INTENDED FOR RAINWATER, POLLUTING RIVERS AND LAKES.
- FACT 5:** SOILED WATER FROM PROFESSIONAL CAR WASHES IS PIPED TO WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES OR RUNS INTO STATE APPROVED DRAINAGE FACILITIES DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.
- FACT 6:** THE COMPUTER CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT, AND HIGH PRESSURE NOZZLES AND PUMPS USED BY PROFESSIONAL CAR WASHES ARE DESIGNED TO GET THE MOST USE OUT OF WATER, CLEANING CARS THOROUGHLY WITH A FRACTION OF THE WATER A HOME CAR WASH USES.
- FACT 7:** PROFESSIONAL CAR WASHES TYPICALLY USE LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF WATER USED IN A LARGE OR MEDIUM SIZE MUNICIPALITY.
- FACT 8:** THE PROFESSIONAL CAR WASH INDUSTRY HAS BEEN TAKING STEPS TO CONSERVE WATER FOR OVER THREE DECADES.
- FACT 9:** THE PUGET SOUND CAR WASH ASSOCIATION HAS OFFERED AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVE TO PARKING LOT CHARITY WASHES FOR THE PAST THIRTEEN YEARS. OUR CHARITY WASH PROGRAM PROVIDES TICKETS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEM TO SELL TO FUND THEIR PROGRAMS.
- FACT 10:** THE PUGET SOUND CAR WASH ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED “EARTH HERO” BY KING COUNTY TO RECOGNIZE IT FOR ITS EFFORTS TO CONSERVE WATER AND DECREASE POLLUTION AND THE COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CAR WASH ASSOCIATION.