

## Car Wash Safety

The equipment used in washing a vehicle and the support equipment in the backroom may not appear on the surface to be dangerous, but it can cause serious injury if a person comes into contact with it.

It is very important that ALL car wash employees understand this.

The following listing identifies an outline to be followed to ensure all employees and customers at the wash are safe.

1. First, no employee or customer should be in the wash area while the wash is operational. Customers must remain in their vehicles, should a customer attempt to leave their vehicle while the wash is operational, the emergency stop button must be pushed immediately to stop the wash until the customer is back in their vehicle.
2. Should any situation occur in the wash, the emergency stop button must be engaged **first** before any action is taken. After the situation is addressed, the wash bay must be clear of all personnel **before** the emergency stop button is released.
3. Only the person who pushes an emergency stop button should release it.
4. The wash bay should be clear of any personnel before washing a vehicle.
5. No car wash personnel should ever open an electric panel in the equipment room - only authorized personnel.
6. Only authorized personnel should service or maintain the equipment and that should only occur if main power to the car wash is turned off. This applies also to the switching of chemical drums when they are empty in the equipment room.
7. There must never be any form of horseplay inside the tunnel or in the equipment room. Any horseplay will result in immediate termination.
8. At no time should anyone reach into the conveyor for any item. Should something drop into the conveyor pit, the **main power** to the car wash must be shut off **before** retrieving the item. There should never be any walking on top of or standing on the conveyor. Step over the conveyor when crossing.
9. Should any items become entangled in the wash material, the **power to the equipment** must be turned off **before** clearing the material.
10. At no time should an employee cross in front of a vehicle while it is on the conveyor; many times customers do not realize that their vehicle is not in neutral and is still in drive. As a result the vehicle could move forward at any time and could result in injury. All personnel should be away from the front of any vehicle while it is on the conveyor. All prep work will be done while on the outside of the

body of the vehicle. When crossing behind a vehicle when prepping it, be aware of the next vehicle approaching to ensure there is no risk with that vehicle.

11. All employees should maintain awareness of the operation of the wash, watching and listening for out of the ordinary equipment movements or noises. These will be the first indications that a problem is occurring. Once changes in operation or different noises occur, the service company should be notified immediately to discuss.

a. These situations would include:

- Vibrations / noise coming from air dryer producer
- Wash equipment acting more aggressively while washing vehicles
- Air leaks either in tunnel or equipment room
- Water leaks at fittings in bay or equipment room
- A wash component not spinning when it normally does, or stalling more frequently than normal operation

**ALL EMPLOYEES MUST KNOW THE FOLLOWING:**

- The locations of all emergency stop buttons, how to stop the car wash and restart
- Where the main water shut off is for the car wash and how to use
- Individual water shut offs for equipment in the backroom
- Where the main power shut off is for the car wash and how to use
- Where the eye wash / first aid kits are located
- Contact numbers of people to be reached in case of an emergency

THIS INFORMATION IS A GUIDE ONLY. PLEASE FOLLOW ALL OSHA GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY.