Owning and operating a car wash can be expensive. You can reduce your business’ utility bills by using efficient water-reducing practices and technologies.

Here are a few ways to make your car wash operation as efficient and Arizona-friendly as possible.

### If you are starting up a new carwash business, or renovating your existing business, consider these facts:

**You pay TWICE for each gallon used! Once through the water bill and once through the sewer bill.**

Choosing the right system for your business is one way you can significantly cut down on the cost of obtaining and disposing of water.

**Install a water reuse system** and cut down on the utility bill. Not only does it save water and money, but many customers look for businesses that have water reuse equipment. Post a sign that your car wash reuses water and promote your business as a water conservation leader! *(Water Savings: 50% - 80%)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gallons of water per Vehicle</th>
<th>Evaporation &amp; Carryout (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-serve</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conveyor</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-bay</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tips and Technologies for Self-Serve Car Wash

Self-serve car washes in desert regions use about 12 gl. per vehicle. Evaporation and carryout (water that is still on the vehicle at time of exit) equal to about 20% of the water used.

- Choose hand-held spray wands and foamy brushes that use 3.5 gallons per minute or less. *(Water Savings: 50% - 80%)*
- Make sure each spray wand, foamy brush, or similar system has a positive shutoff valve so that the water will not run while the system is not being used.
- Replace spray nozzles regularly and check for leaks. Repair the leaks promptly as they occur.
- Replace brass or plastic nozzles, which tend to erode more quickly, with stainless steel nozzles.
In-bay car washes rotate the washing equipment around a stationary vehicle, using roughly 72.5 gallons per vehicle. They lose 33% of the water used due to evaporation and carryout.

- Replace nozzles regularly, check for leaks and repair them promptly.
- Check the alignment of the nozzles on a regular basis so the water does not spray on the wall.
- Time the arches precisely in the conveyor to come on as soon as the car arrives and to shut off right as it leaves the arch.
- Program a dwell time for water to run off the vehicle into the reclaim pit before allowing the vehicle to exit the conveyor.

(Water Savings: 50% - 80%)

This is the least efficient type of car wash and is NOT recommended.

However, if you own or operate this type of carwash, you are encouraged to implement the following water conservation practices to save water and money on your water bill:

- Automatic Conveyer carwashes use 44 gallons per vehicle in desert regions and lose 17% of that to evaporation and carryout.
- For light trucks and small vehicles, select new rollover and conveyor equipment that uses less than 3.5 gallons per minute.
- For buses and large trucks use equipment that use less than 7.5 gallons per minute.

For More Water Conservation Information
Visit our website: www.azwater.gov/conservation, or call: (602) 771-8585

This fact sheet has been developed by the Arizona Department of Water Resources’ Statewide Water Conservation Program in an effort to strengthen the culture of conservation throughout Arizona.