

Do you operate a mobile car wash in New York City?



Here are some important DOs & DON'Ts



✓ Have a valid Car Wash license

You must have a Car Wash license from the NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) if you engage in car wash activity (washing, detailing, drying, polishing, vacuuming, or other cosmetic care of vehicles).

The penalty for operating an unlicensed mobile car wash is \$100 per day. For more information about car wash penalties, visit nyc.gov/DCWPPenalties and see 6 RCNY section 6-67.

Exception: You do not need a Car Wash license if you operate a self-service facility, wash vehicles intermittently to raise funds for a nonprofit, or wash vehicles only as an ancillary service to a main service—for example, repair shop, car dealership, leasing agent—and do not offer car washing directly to the public.

✓ Obey all federal, state, and City laws and regulations

City laws and regulations include those enforced by DCWP, the NYC Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP), Transportation (DOT), Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the New York Police Department (NYPD).



✗ Operate on private property without the permission of property owners

✗ Operate in the street, on highways, or in municipal parking facilities

✗ Park illegally or wash cars that are parked illegally

✗ Obstruct traffic in any way or violate other traffic laws

For more information, visit nyc.gov/DOT and search “NYC Traffic Rules.”

✗ Use public hydrants or other water sources without proper authorizations, licenses, or permits

✗ Illegally dump water into city sewers

The NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) handles reports of illegal dumping. DSNY can impound mobile car wash vehicles involved in dumping.

Questions?

- For more information, visit nyc.gov/BusinessToolbox
- For questions about the law, contact DCWP’s Business Compliance Counsel at BCC@dcwp.nyc.gov.
- For licensing questions, call **311** and ask to be transferred to DCWP with a question about the Car Wash license.