



Car Wash Safety

The CompWest Difference

CompWest customers are assigned a dedicated loss control consultant to identify and address loss trends while serving as a safety resource.

The most common types of workplace accidents reported by car wash employees include lifting strains, repetitive motion injuries, slips/trips/falls and heat exhaustion. To address these and other exposures, the following preventative measures are recommended:

- Enforce /follow safety rules.
- Keep all areas clean and free of safety hazards.
- Ensure slip-resistant mats are in good repair and placed in areas prone to excess water and/or grease.
- Address spills immediately.
- Identify tire stops, curbs and other changes in elevation with white or yellow striping.
- Regularly inspect lots and walkways. Ensure potholes are patched and excess gravel removed.
- Confirm ample lighting is provided throughout the property.
- Maintain step ladders.
- Verify air compressor drive belt is covered and a “machine starts automatically” sign is posted.
- Verify washing machine agitator is guarded with safety interlock on the cover.

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- Maintain electrical cords and ensure there is no fraying or exposed wiring.
- Keep electrical panels closed and unobstructed.
- Ensure hoses and cords do not cross the path of traffic.
- Keep body parts clear of any cars/wheels rolling on the conveyor.
- Confirm spray bottles and other containers of cleaning supplies are safely stored and labeled.
- Regularly inspect eye wash station and first aid kits to ensure they are accessible and replenished.
- Pay attention to nuances of vehicles.
- Provide ample drinking water and shade for car washers.
- Formally train employees on the car wash system and wash tunnel equipment (including safety and procedures for issues like stuck roller, etc.)
- Conduct documented training for all new and existing employees on all injury exposures and controls.

While evaluating workplace conditions, employee practices should be assessed to ensure:

- Closed-toe, slip-resistant footwear is worn.
- Job rotation is used to prevent repetitive motion injuries.
- Safe lifting techniques are demonstrated.
- Climbing and excessive reaching is avoided.
- Protective gear is always being used.
- Employees remain hydrated.

The advice presented in this document is intended as general information for employers. Review compwestinsurance.com for the complete disclaimer/legal notice.

