



**Columbus Consolidated Government
Department of Engineering
Stormwater & Floodplain Mgt.
Division**

**420 10th Street
Columbus, GA 31901
stormwater@columbusga.org**

**Requirements for Car Washing for Auto Dealers, Rental Agencies, Repair
Facilities and Body Shops – effective January 1, 2016**

Background

The Council of the Columbus Consolidated Government adopted revisions to the Stormwater Management sections of the Unified Development Ordinance in October 2015. Part of these revisions prohibit the uncontrolled washing of vehicles by businesses that sell, rent, or repair automobiles.

The uncontrolled washing of vehicles (washing in a parking lot or other area that does not direct the flow of the wastewater generated by washing to the sanitary sewer system) pollutes our water resources, as these contaminated flows are discharged directly into creeks, lakes, etc. Biodegradable or "Green" detergents must be captured as well. The uncontrolled washing of vehicles was prohibited after December 31, 2015.

The Columbus Consolidated Government will not design any washing facility, nor will it make recommendations for products that may be used to satisfy the requirements of the UDO. CCG's role will be to approve or disapprove a design that either meets, or fails to meet, minimum standards.

Standards

The Stormwater Ordinance and Sanitary Sewage/Sewage Disposal Ordinance requirements for car wash facilities can be summarized as follows:

1. Wastewater generated by the washing of vehicles must be directed to the Sanitary Sewer System (owned and operated by the Columbus Water Works).
2. Rainwater and runoff cannot enter into the Sanitary Sewer System. This requirement is most often satisfied by the installation of a permanent cover over the dedicated washing area.
3. Wastewater from the washing operation, prior to entering the Sanitary Sewer System must undergo pretreatment, by either a sand/grit separator

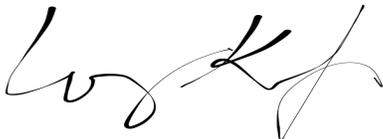
- or oil/water separator or both. Sizing of the required devices will be performed by CWW staff (see contact information below).
4. All plumbing work must be performed by a licensed plumber and a plumbing permit acquired from the Department of Inspections & Code (420 10th Street, 2nd Floor).
 5. The installation of a permanent structure requires a building permit from the Department of Inspections & Code. *Note: For lots zoned General Commercial and Neighborhood Commercial, the side and rear setbacks are 0 feet (if your sideyard/rearyard abuts other commercial property) and 15 feet (if it abuts residential property).*
 6. Facilities may opt for a design akin to those used by mobile detail operations (mats, berms, etc.). However, the wastewater disposal point may be subject to the same requirements as #3, at the discretion of CWW. Facilities opting to wash in this manner are required to use the containment/collection equipment every time a vehicle is washed. Failure to do so will result in enforcement action(s), each vehicle being a separate violation.
 7. Note: Facilities meeting these minimum requirements, assuming the lot on which they are located has a minimum of 100' of frontage, will qualify for licensing as a commercial car wash and may add that service to their existing business license.

Contact Information

Logan Kilgore
Stormwater & Floodplain Mgt. Division Manager
706-225-3952
kilgore.logan@columbusga.org

Roderick Kimbrough
FOG Coordinator
Columbus Water Works
706-649-3461
rkimbrough@cwvga.org

Sincerely,



Logan Kilgore
NPDES & Floodplain Programs Manager
Department of Engineering
Columbus Consolidated Government