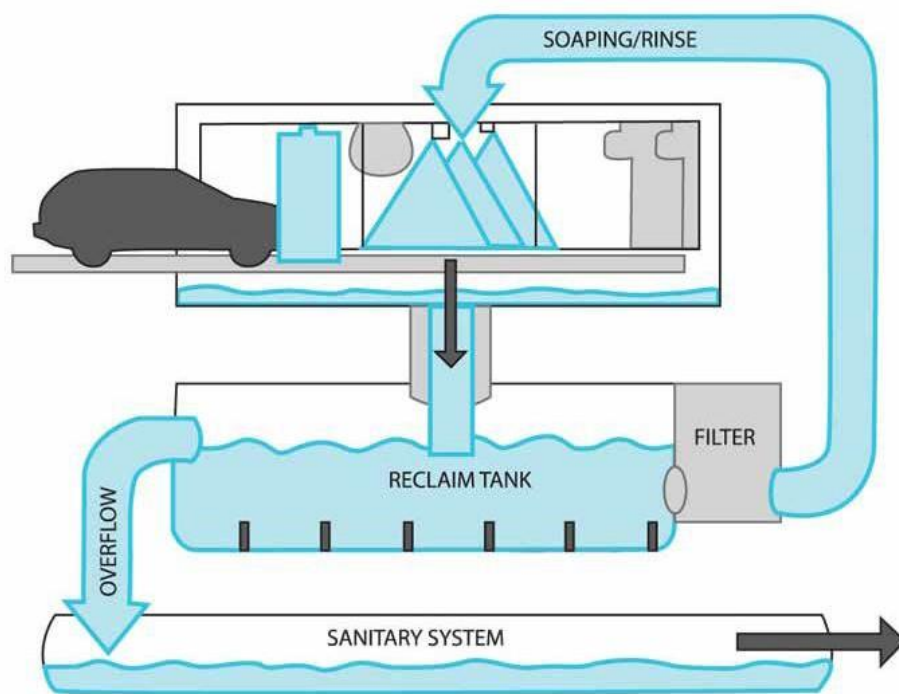


Do Professional Car Washes Really Save Water?



The answer is that most newer full-service car wash facilities have fairly sophisticated water reclamation systems that enable the car wash to re-use water many times over. This allows the car wash to only use fresh water when absolutely necessary (such as a final rinse) to ensure a clean, dry car. In other words, while many gallons of water are being used during the course of an average car wash, only 9 to 15 gallons of fresh water is introduced during any given wash cycle. That is at the very least a 65% reduction in water usage over home washing and very likely much more than that.

Washing a car at home in the driveway or at a parking lot fundraiser will use between 40 and 140 gallons of water on a single car. The lower estimate assumes the use of a bucket and spray nozzle. The higher is a free flowing hose.

The average amount of water used at a self-serve car is 17-18 gallons of water per car compare that to:

Compare car washing to some other water	
Toilet flushing	to 5 gallons
Dishwasher	5 to 14 gallons
Professional car wash	8 to 12 gallons
Shower (8 minutes)	10 to 20 gallons
Bath	10 to 40 gallons
Clothes washing	13 to 50 gallons
Car Washing at home	20 to 100 gallons

Water conservation is also only the beginning. Washing at home can also introduce harmful cleaning chemicals and phosphates from road film into the storm drain, which is intended to deliver rain run-off into rivers and streams, thereby hurting the plants and animal life in that ecosystem. Professional car washes empty excess waste into the sewer where it belongs.