

The Canadian Carwash Association (CCA) continues to monitor the most recent developments surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As a result of COVID-19, carwash operators and vehicle detail service providers have faced an enormous challenge navigating the Federal, Provincial/Territory and Municipal requirements set upon them.

Our operators are constantly questioning their ability to provide each specific service while struggling to keep up with the ever-changing landscape of rules, regulations and interpretations from each level of government.

December 21, 2020 both Automated and Self-Serve Car Washes have now been listed as businesses permitted to open. We welcome this news, but it still does not cover vital vehicle sanitation (all exterior and interior service) which has yet to be listed as an essential service in official government documentation. This would include, but not limited to:

- All forms of professional exterior washing
- All forms of professional interior cleaning, including:
 - Detailing; and
 - Sanitization

Being formally recognized under the retailer category, (Automotive**) for both full-range exterior and interior cleaning, would ensure that both our operators and the general public had clarity when it relates to vehicle sanitizing services.**

The CCA has been advocating on behalf of all Canadian operators on this issue. However, as Canada begins to lockdown again this winter it is imperative our industry as a whole be formally recognized as ESSENTIAL. All Car wash and detailing operators provide a basic and sanitizing service that is essential to the health and safety of all Canadians. There is a continuing need for automotive owners to keep their vehicles clean and safe. Police, Utility, Uber, and Lyft drivers have a continuing need to keep their vehicles clean and safe. People transporting the elderly; people assisting as volunteers or paid staff for non-profits offering essential services; people delivering goods and food need to maintain a safe environment. Car washes are just as important as gas stations or automotive repair centers during this critical time.

The Infrastructure Health and Safety Association Guidance on cleaning and [sanitizing inside your vehicle](#) during COVID-19 notes the following on the Ontario Government [Website](#):

Clean the vehicle regularly.

- *Get into the habit of cleaning your vehicle interior daily in order to limit the risk of contamination. Ensure that you are thoroughly cleaning the steering wheel, gear shifter, dashboard, all gauges, windows, door handles and all frequently touched areas.*
- *Most areas of the cab can be cleaned with detergent and water and then followed with disinfectant wipes and a dry washcloth or towel. Once cleaning is complete, dispose of any cleaning gloves that were used.*
- *For frequently touched areas (e.g., steering wheel, gear shift, door handles), clean with disinfectant wipes every time you get back into the vehicle.*
- *Have a garbage bag or wastebasket in the cab. Place the garbage bag or wastebasket in a convenient spot to avoid trash piling up in the vehicle. This will keep all trash in one spot and make it easier to dispose of when you are stopped. Regularly disposing of the trash will assist in eliminating odors in the vehicle as well.*

“We are just as important as cleaning companies going into buildings and offices disinfecting and sanitizing the work place, the only difference is we provide this service to vehicles. We have spent thousands of dollars on equipment and products as well as very strict safety protocols and training in order for us to provide this much needed service. As such it’s imperative that car washing and interior cleaning and sanitation be listed as an essential service.” Michael Black, CCA Member and Owner of Valet Carwashes



What you can do to support, act now!

1. Write to your MPP, MP, and Municipal Mayor: A list can be found below. Share your company’s story with them of how COVID-19 has effected your business.
2. Spread the word: Email your local community newspaper, call your local talk radio show and push out your points on social media (being sure to tag your representatives).
3. Share this call to action with friends and colleagues who care about the sanitization of vehicles and ask them to do the same.

Premier’s Office – Email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

[MPP Listing](#)

[MP Listing](#)

[Municipal Mayor Listing](#) – Please search your municipal website for direct contact information

Sample Email:

To Whom It May Concern:

The bearer of this letter is an employee of (CARWASH/DETAIL COMPANY NAME) whose operations are designated as Essential Workplaces pursuant of the Province of Ontario.

We are responsible for washing police/first responder vehicles, healthcare worker vehicles, Uber/Lyft/Ride sharing vehicles, food delivery vehicles, and those of the public that still must go to work for other life sustaining purposes. Vehicles are by definition mobile and we view it as a social responsibility to remain open to sanitize and clean such vehicles to quell the spread of CoVid-19.



Car wash operations provide a basic and sanitizing service that is essential to the health and safety. There is a continuing need for automotive owners to keep their vehicles clean and safe. Police, Utility, Uber, and Lyft drivers have a continuing need to keep their vehicles clean and safe. People transporting the elderly; people assisting as volunteers or paid staff for non-profits offering essential services; people delivering goods and food need to maintain a safe environment. Car washes are just as important as gas stations or automotive repair centers during this critical time.

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We thank you for your immediate action and attention!

(GENERAL MANAGER/OWNER NAME, CONTACT INFORMATION)