

# 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 Affairs (DCA) if you engage in car wash activity (washing, detailing, drying, polishing, vacuuming, or other cosmetic care of vehicles).

*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 DCA, 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](http://nyc.gov/DOT) and search “NYC Traffic Rules.”

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

## Questions?

- For more information, visit [nyc.gov/BusinessToolbox](http://nyc.gov/BusinessToolbox)
- For questions about the law, contact DCA's Business Compliance Counsel at [BCC@dca.nyc.gov](mailto:BCC@dca.nyc.gov).
- For licensing questions, call **311** and ask to be transferred to DCA with a question about the Car Wash license.



Bill de Blasio  
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Commissioner

*The NYC Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) protects and enhances the daily economic lives of New Yorkers to create thriving communities.*