

## What is this About?

Car and vehicle washing activities are addressed in San Juan Capistrano's water conservation ordinance. This brochure contains a summary of some of these elements. For more information about other activities, please read the full text of the ordinance, found on the City's Web site: [www.sanjuancapistrano.org](http://www.sanjuancapistrano.org) on the Utilities Department page.

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish standards for year-round water conservation, to promote the efficient use of water, and to reduce or eliminate the waste of water in the City.

The ordinance also updates the four-stage contingency measures which can be put in place upon declaration of water shortages.

In revising the ordinance, the City has taken the opportunity to strongly link water conservation with urban runoff prevention. Outdoor water use including car washing is a primary source of urban runoff pollution.

California's water supply is increasingly constrained by drought and by regulatory agencies. The prevention of water waste is an economically and environmentally feasible way to protect and conserve the City's water supplies.

You are in control of your water use! Please use water wisely – be aware of water-using activities on your project, and don't let water leave the property.

**Violations may be subject to administrative citations and fines.**

## For More Information:

[www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)

Landscape & irrigation information  
Single-family residential rebates

<http://www.mwdsaveabuck.com/>

Commercial & Multi-family rebates

<http://www.h2ouse.org>

Wise water use indoors & out

<http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org>

Cutting-edge efficiency: appliance  
& hardware lists

## Important Contact numbers:

Runoff hotline	(949) 234-4575
Code enforcement	(949) 443-6344
Water Customer Service	(949) 493-1515
24 hr water emergency	(949) 493-1515

For more information including speaking to your group, club, or HOA:

**Francie Kennedy**  
**Water Conservation Coordinator**  
**(949) 487-4304**

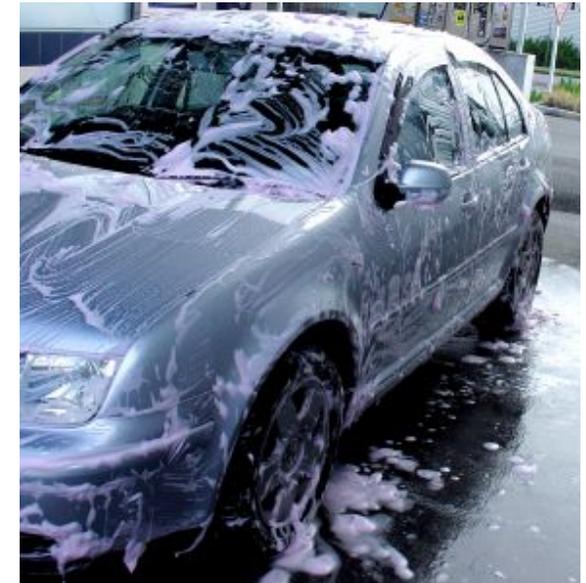
**The Ordinance takes effect October 2008. Violations may be subject to administrative citations and fines.** This brochure is a summary of some of the elements in the ordinance. Please read the full text of the ordinance, found on the City's Web site: [www.sanjuancapistrano.org](http://www.sanjuancapistrano.org) on the Utilities Department page, or simply by typing "water conservation" in the search box on the home page.

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**City of San Juan Capistrano**  
**Water Conservation Ordinance**

## Car Wash Elements



[http://libizblog.files.wordpress.com/2007/08/car\\_wash.jpg](http://libizblog.files.wordpress.com/2007/08/car_wash.jpg)

**Contact:**  
**Francie Kennedy**  
**Water Conservation Coordinator**  
**(949) 487-4304**  
October 2008

**Thank you for being Water Wise!**

## Car Washing: Year-round Water Use Efficiency Elements

**Residential Washing of Vehicles.** Use as little water as possible and do not allow water to enter the gutter. The hose must have a shutoff nozzle.

**Commercial Car Washes.** Commercial car wash facilities shall not permit the washing of any boat or vehicle in such facility or on its premises, other than by the following methods:

- (1) Use of mechanical automatic car wash facilities utilizing water recycling equipment;
- (2) Use of a hose that operates on a timer for limited time periods and shuts off automatically at the expiration of the time period;
- (3) Use of a hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle; and/or
- (4) Use of bucket and hand washing.

All wash/rinse water must be captured and recycled or discharged into the sanitary sewer system through an appropriate treatment system, after obtaining a special discharge permit from the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.

All new commercial conveyor car wash facilities shall be equipped with a water recycling system.

**Mobile car detailing.** Enterprises using water shall have a City business license and carry a statement of approval by the City Manager or his/her designee as to knowledge of and compliance with the City's Water Quality Regulations, and the required Best Management Practices and techniques to prevent runoff to storm drains.

**Washing of Equipment and Machinery.** The hose must be equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle. All wash water from such washing/cleaning activity must be prevented from discharging to the stormwater drainage system. All wash water must be discharged into the sanitary sewer system through an appropriate treatment system. This may require a special discharge permit from the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.

**Cleaning of paved surfaces and structures.** Use a broom.

*Shortage stages below may be declared to respond to local or regional water shortage conditions and emergencies. Each elevated stage will include the elements of the previous stage. Taking strong action at Stage 1 may help prevent further reductions!*

### Stage 1 - Water Watch

**Residential car washing.** All non-essential water use for vehicle washing shall cease; using a commercial car wash is permitted.

**Car Washes.** Washing on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash shall

not be subject to these measures, however all non-essential water use shall cease.

**No washing down of buildings,** sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, patios or other paved areas.

**Repair all water leaks** immediately.

### Stage 2 - Water Alert

**Residential car washing is prohibited, other than at a car wash.**

**Percentage reduction.** Water users may be required to reduce their usage by the percentage determined by the City to be necessary to sustain adequate water supply for the community.

**Runoff to street.** Fines increase for water from any hose, pipe, valve, faucet, sprinkler or irrigation device into any stormwater drainage system, drain, gutter or street.

**Cleaning of paved surfaces and structures** is prohibited if using water from a hose.

### Stage 3 - Water Warning

**Water budget billing** allocations may be reduced.

### Stage 4 - Water Emergency

**Car Washes.** The use of water by all types of commercial car washes shall be prohibited. Cleaning of garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables is exempt.

**All outdoor irrigation** is prohibited.