

SAFETY BULLETIN: THEFT PREVENTION

Car washes can be targets for theft and criminal behavior. During the holiday season some car washes see an increase in burglary, robbery, vandalism, and other theft. Keep your car wash safe and prevent losses by following these suggested tips.



Check video surveillance systems to make sure all cameras are operational, and that cameras are positioned to record optimal angles. Check to ensure all DVR's are properly recording footage. Download footage immediately if there is an incident. Check footage for suspicious activity and for locations being "cased" for theft.



Empty pay stations daily and make daily bank deposits. Keep cash and change amounts on site to the minimal amounts necessary for daily operations. Stagger deposit times and avoid taking the same route to the bank. Never allow a person to make a bank deposit alone. Varying the deposit person and time makes a business harder to target.



Frequently check that locks are functional and are appropriate for their usage. Use a burglar alarm system on buildings and pay stations. Routinely test alarm systems to ensure they are properly reporting to the alarm monitoring centers. Place signage around the location announcing security systems and limited cash on the premises. Secure all equipment stored outside.



Use bright lighting, especially near target areas like change machines, vacuums, vending machines, and payment stations. Having a well lit car wash is an easy and effective way to deter theft. Cash is one of the greatest risks for loss in a theft situation.



Increase your local police presence. Some car washes offer police and other local first responders free or discounted use of car washes to increase police visibility at their businesses. This is a great way to deter theft and provide a service to your community.



Hold regular team meetings to discuss situational awareness and procedures for robbery's and theft situations. Staff should be on the lookout for people "casing the joint", watching staff and daily activities. Protect vehicles from theft by properly identifying the correct owner when vehicles are released to customers. Never leave keys in unattended vehicles.

Questions about safety?

Call McNeil & Co. Risk Management: 800-822-3747 ext. 176.

For video safety tips, E-Learning online training and other resources visit: mcneilandcompany.com/risk-management



**CAR WASH[®]
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