

HANDS ON CAR WASH

Hands On was formed in 1996 by current Chairman Richard Plowman, its principal activity being the provision of a hand car wash service operating within over 150 car parks throughout the UK.

The company's ethos of providing an environmentally friendly alternative to automated car washes, jet washes and home hosepipe carwash, minimises the waste of the planet's most valuable natural resource.

Our research showed that on average a car washed at home using a garden hose used 300 litres of water whilst an automated gantry style carwash used 125 litres. The other option, a jet wash uses on average 70 litres whereas a vehicle washed by a Hands On operative uses less than 5 litres of water.

If we compare a Hands On customer to one who prefers to use an alternative method of car cleaning we can immediately identify the water saving potential of using Hands On. For instance, the 1081 Hands on car cleaners throughout the UK use on average approximately 32000 litres of water each day. If those customers switched to, say an automatic gantry car wash it would result in an increase of approximately 779,000 litres per day. Worse still, if they chose to wash their cars at home using a hosepipe that figure increases to almost 2,000,000 litres per day - enough to provide over 5500 homes with their daily domestic water supply.

We devised a unique car wash methodology and detergents and cleaning materials were researched and sourced to ensure that minimal water was required to achieve a first class result. Over 1000 car washers nationwide have been trained to wash a vehicle the 'Hands On way'.

The service which is priced from £5 for a basic wash, requires no electricity, uses safe, non-caustic detergents and the operator and carwash workstation have been calculated to have virtually a zero carbon footprint. Over the past 2 years this has been recognised and accredited by a number of environmental bodies including: The Green Organisation, The Green Mark, The Green Achiever Scheme and The Energy Savings Trust.

We employ a team of five site auditors, each responsible for approximately 35 car wash sites. Water usage is monitored on a daily basis and retraining or corrective measures are implemented if any deviation to the required standard is observed. Results are reported back to Head Office via a Site Audit Form and performance is recorded and monitored.

Since our company's inception, environmental awareness has been at the forefront of everything we do. Our business model [more than most others] lends itself to environmental best practice as it is so obviously achievable and is the perfect platform to implement a solid environmental policy.

The environmental accreditations that we have won are reviewed or audited annually. In order to maintain the certification we are therefore committed to constant improvement in order to ensure re-certification.

The Green Organisation has published our award winning paper in 'The Green Book' the world's only international work of reference on environmental best practice, so that others may follow our environmental lead and learn from our experiences and successes. Via this medium we can ensure that other organisations may benefit from our work as a green exemplar.

