

CARWASH INDUSTRY TRENDS



CLEAN
CARWASH WORKER CENTER

WHO WE ARE

CLEAN is the country's first carwash worker center, transforming the lives of thousands of carwasherxs, in one of Los Angeles' most exploitative industries - hand wash car washes.

Through direct organizing at CLEAN, carwasherxs lead outreach and advocacy efforts around job safety, workplace hazards, wage and hour laws, environmental protection, and community health initiatives. CLEAN unites carwasherxs to a growing and innovative worker center movement whose aim is to improve the quality of life for all working people.



KEY FACTS ABOUT THE INDUSTRY

01

There are approximately
2,500 carwashes in CA
(2023)

02

EMPLOYERS ARE
TYPICALLY IMMIGRANTS

03

SMALL BUSINESS, SINGLE
OWNER

04

WORKFORCE IS LARGELY
MONOLINGUAL
IMMIGRANT AND
INDIGENOUS

ADDRESSING THE CURRENT CRISIS

Since June 6th, over **109** car washes have been targeted by federal agents. CLEAN has been able to identify that at least **372** car wash workers that have been kidnapped from their workplace.

1

EMPLOYER OUTREACH

CLEAN and allies have conducted outreach to over 100 carwashes to provide information about their constitutional rights

2

WORKER OUTREACH

CLEAN and allies connected with over 1,500 car wash workers. We were able to connect over 450 workers to resources.

3

RAPID RESPONSE

We were able to activate over 100 volunteers to adopt a car wash, help deliver groceries to workers homes. Provide on the ground support to workers and employers.



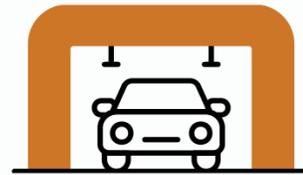
DIFFERENT TYPES OF CAR WASHES

Hand Car Wash



Cars are cleaned 100% by hand

Tunnel



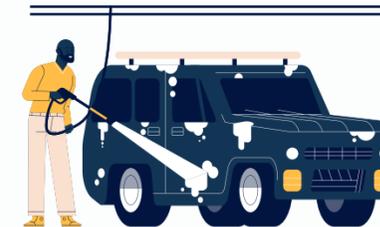
Cars are driven through a conveyor belt where they will be washed by machines or by hand.

Express



Customer drives car through a tunnel.

Self-Serve



Coin operated, no workers on-site

Mobile



On-demand & or stationed a building or parking structure.

HIERARCHY OF A CAR WASH

MANAGER

USUALLY WEARS A DIFFERENT SHIRT COLOR FROM THE REST OF THE WORKERS

TICKET WRITER

ALSO WEARS A DIFFERENT COLORED SHIRT, HAS ACCESS TO COMISSION

DRIVER

WASHES TOWELS AND MOVES CARS THROUGH THE TUNNEL AND TO THE DRYING AREA

DETAILER

CONSIDERED ONE OF THE HIGHEST-SKILLED POSITIONS AT THE CAR WASH

DRYER

HAND DRIES CARS AND PROVIDES CUSTOMER CARE, GENERALLY RECEIVES TIPS

SOAPER

MORE COMMON IN HAND CAR WASHES, A LOWER PAID POSITION AND MOST HAZARDOUS

VACUUM

CONSIDERED A STARTING POSITION, OLDER WORKERS WILL BE MOVED HERE

COMMON VIOLATIONS IN THE INDUSTRY

✦ TIPS ONLY : Workers work for tips only no wages for all or some hours of the workday

✦ DAILY RATES : \$75- \$100/day for an 9-10 hour workday, \$7.50 to \$10 per hour

✦ PIECE RATES : Workers are paid for the number of cars they wash (Example \$ 4 / \$ 5 per car)

✦ REST BREAKS : Employees typically are not allowed to take rest breaks

✦ MEAL BREAKS : No meal breaks given at times, interrupted meal breaks, meal breaks given past 5th hour

COMMON VIOLATIONS IN THE INDUSTRY

 RETALIATION : Workers commonly face retaliation if they speak up about any violations. Reduced hours, demotions, threats, fired.

 UNLAWFUL DEDUCTIONS : workers see deductions from their paycheck to cover costs from accidents, pay out of pocket for work materials and uniforms.

 HEALTH & SAFETY: Exposure to abrasive chemicals and lack of protective equipment Workplace injuries are common (Falls, Chemical burns, lung damage)

 HARRASSMENT & DISCRIMINATION: Physical abuse by management, sexual harassment and discrimination.

HELPING WORKERS COLLECT STOLEN WAGES

1

Registration

Car wash companies are required to register their business with the CA DLSE

2

Surety Bond

ERs must obtain a surety bond to pay car wash employees if an employer refuses or cannot pay the worker their wages.

3

Restitution Fund

to pay the wages of car wash workers that are owed to them when an employer fails to pay them. Fines collected from non-compliant car wash businesses are also added to this fund

Education & Outreach Efforts

CLEAN has partnered with the BOFE unit to educate workers about the car wash worker law & registration enforcement.

IMPACTS OF IMMIGRATION RAIDS ON INDUSTRY

1

Car washes shutting down

- Cruisers Car Wash (SFV)
- Jack's Car Wash (Bell, CA)
- Crenshaw Imperial
- Sky Car Wash (Compton)
- Coast Hand CW (OC)
- Overland CW (West LA)

2

Automation of car washes

- La Cienega Car Wash

3

Changing demographics

Due to the ongoing raids many workers have been pushed out of the industry. ER's are targeting younger workers.



GIVEN ALL OF THE CHANGES IN THE CAR WASH INDUSTRY

The CLEAN Carwash Worker Center will play a key role to connect car wash workers to resources, provide updated and trusted information, and continue to be a driving force echoing the voices of the car wash workers