

The impact of bus washing on your operation

(BY JACK JACKSON)

In what area does washing vehicles in your operation have the biggest impact: its image, driver satisfaction, extended equipment life, environmental considerations? A consistent wash system can have a positive impact on all of these areas, yet it is generally ignored by most companies, with little thought or investment.

There is technology available to meet any of your vehicle washing requirement needs, be they budget or environmentally based. Generally, the most popular automatic machinery to wash vehicles are automated drive-through, rollover and walk-around units. These systems enable a bus to be washed and rinsed in less than five minutes.



Author Jack Jackson says analyzing your operation's bus washing can help in finding areas for cost savings.

manual pressure washer and hand brush scrub system, taking up to 30 minutes or more to wash and rinse a vehicle. Operators can encounter frustrations related to reliable labor, time and wash consistencies when utilizing a manual hand wash system.

Analyze water and water treatment costs

For most of us, a municipality supplies our water through pipes to our facility. Washing a vehicle inside your building usually means your operation is tapped into your municipal water sewage system; thus, the gray water is being sent to a local treatment facility. This does help the environment, but there may be a big cost involved:

1. Cost to the municipality to clean this water.

2. Cost to your company or building to pay for water (possibly on a meter). Check your water bill and understand it.

3. Cost for sewage discharge. Some areas meter water in and out, often charging twice the amount for water discharge.

Water use can be a major hidden cost. Do an analysis to find savings, especially when you look at your cost per gallon of water. Examine your water bill and determine the cost per gallon.

After determining the cost of water, capture the cost of labor, chemicals and supplies (brushes, cloths, etc.). This is not easy, but it is necessary to determine your wash cost per vehicle.

In today's world of environmental concerns, the transportation industry, like other industries, has given serious thought to its impact on the environment, and it has found ways to increase efficiency in tires, engines, fuel consumption, aerodynamics, etc. How about doing an analysis of bus washing? It has an impact on an operation's image, driver satisfaction, the environment, and every operation's, city's and municipality's bottom line. **SBB**

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Also available are water reclamation and recycle systems to offset environment concerns and save on water costs, and today's technology allows for water treatment systems at your wash bay. There are many systems available that capture your water, clean it and reuse it for washing. This allows a zero discharge, thus saving money and helping the environment.

However, there are many operators still using the

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