



TIMING IS EVERYTHING!

“One of the things that I notice consistently as I travel from car wash to car wash is waste due to the timing of chemical applications or equipment not being as precise as possible when they turn on or off each cycle.”

One of the things I consistently notice as I travel from car wash to car wash, is chemical waste due to the timing of application or equipment not being precise when they turn on or off in each cycle. Meaning the application/equipment is either not operating at the correct point of the vehicle in the cycle or that the application/equipment is staying on after the vehicle is past the point where the application/equipment is located or turning off too early. Keep in mind that timing is not limited to chemical applications but includes other items such as rinses, CTAs, high pressure pumps and other equipment as well.

How does timing affect the operation of a car wash?

The first and most obvious evidence is chemical being pumped onto the floor while there is no vehicle present, causing for wasted chemical and loss of money.

A second observation, but not as obvious a loss, is when a customer is not buying extra services because every time they purchase them the chemical doesn't turn on until the vehicle is three feet past the application and misses the vehicle.

Additionally, high pressure pumps and dryers not being correctly timed will not only affect the quality of the car wash but will also cost you money in the form of wasted electricity, water and wear and tear on equipment.

What are the main factors of timing?

1. The placement of equipment, every chemical application, and rinse, being controlled by the terminal controller must be measured from the point of entry switch to the point in the tunnel where the application/equipment is located. The accuracy of this measurement needs to be

After determining how much to adjust these items, go to the tunnel controller and make the adjustments to correct the timing and save the changes. Then, go back to the tunnel and see how the adjustments affected the timing of the application/equipment.



Continue planning until the timing provides consistent application and use of equipment. It will take several vehicles and trips back and forth to get it precise. It is recommended to make the adjustments in small increments, and it is always a good idea to write down the original settings before you start adjusting anything.

Once the adjusted measurements are confirmed from the enter switch to the application/equipment in the tunnel and have been entered into the tunnel controller program, back up the current setup in your tunnel controller program.

accurately entered into the controller program. For example, if you measure from the enter switch to the 1st presoak arch and the distance is 2 feet 3 inches then 2 feet 3 inches is the number that should be entered into the controller program where it's managed. If this number is not accurate then the timing will more than likely not be inaccurate and misapply the chemical.



2. The tunnel controller program allows you to set when an application/equipment cycles on and off by using the numbers you put into it while programming. There are many different types of controllers so the measurement may be inches, feet, or pulses. Regardless of which measurement is used, they all should have a way for you to set the appropriate timing of an application or use of equipment to ensure a quality wash. For example, your first presoak is set to cycle on 6 inches before the front of the car and then cycle off 6 inches after the rear of the car has been washed. If you want to adjust the distance/timing of this application, you would do so in the tunnel controller program. By changing the settings to be more precise, having the first presoak cycle on 3 inches before the front of the vehicle, and cycle off 1 inch after the rear of the vehicle is washed could provide a more comprehensive product application and ensure a cleaner vehicle.

The idea is to eliminate as much chemical waste as possible by having the application/equipment cycle on at the front of the vehicle and cycle off at the end of the vehicle.

How to correct the timing...

The first thing you will want to do is confirm that the measurements from the enter switch to the location of the applications and equipment in the tunnel are accurately programmed into the tunnel controller program.

Next you will need to watch vehicles pass through the car wash and take note of when applications/equipment cycle on, and then cycle off, in relation to the vehicle's position in the tunnel. Is it cycling on too early or is it staying on too long or maybe even cycling off too early?

It is also a good idea to frequently check the timing of everything against your daily or weekly checklist. The sooner you discover a problem the sooner you can correct it.

Please feel free to reach out to your Lustra DM or RSM if you have any questions about the timing in your tunnel or want to discuss in more detail timing and other creative adjustments to help eliminate wasted chemical, water, electricity and wear and tear on equipment.

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