



Is your Car Wash Ready for Winter?

Wash sites that are not properly maintained and winter ready can cost an operator money and customers!

If you have taken the time to prepare your site for the winter season, you will reap the benefits of a high-volume business. If, however, you have left things go too long and find yourself rushing to make sure your site is winterized, then some of the following points will help you gain ground and be prepared.

Make sure the entrance and exit doors, regardless of the type of wash, (Self-Serve, In-bays or Tunnels) are always operational.

- During cold days where doors can freeze shut, take the necessary steps to prevent this from occurring.
- Doors that are frozen to the floor or rails and forced open can easily break drive systems or come off the tracks.

Confirm that the bays and equipment rooms are sufficiently heated to prevent breakage.

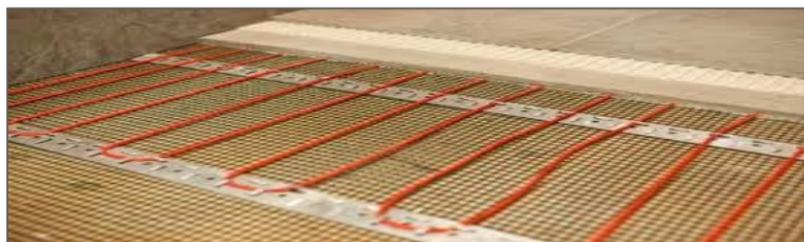
- When bays get too cold, lines freeze and burst, fittings leak and crack, moving parts don't move.
- If the temperatures of equipment rooms are not managed, water and air lines can freeze and burst.
- Chemical products may not freeze but the viscosity may change and be less effective.

Chemicals must be kept in a room where they will not freeze or jell.

- Cold chemicals can separate or jell, depending on the formulations, resulting in poor performance.
- If your equipment room is on the cold side, it would be a good idea to keep the chemical containers directly off the floor, setting them on a rubber or Styrofoam pad.

Consider a heated flooring system.

- Recommended if your wash site is in the northern climate where entrance and exit pads can easily freeze up and become slippery.
- If you have a heated flooring system check, for correct levels of antifreeze and that water heaters/boilers are insulated and monitored.



*Radiant heat flooring

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Bays that are left to the elements and not heated, such as Self-Serves and some In-bays, must take additional precautions so not to freeze lines.

- Insulate or heat tape the chemical and water lines out to each bay.
- Maintain weeps systems for the foam brush, hand wands and arches.
- Use no-freeze products when possible.



[View Product details On Website](#)

Build a checklist that fits the needs of your site(s) and keep it handy and periodically review it. It is better to be proactive than reactive!

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