

Tesla Car Wash Advice

Work in Progress

Some say:

- “Absolutely do not take your vehicle through an automatic car wash because it IS very bad for your vehicle’s paint finish! It’s an excellent way to scratch your car!” ([source](#))
 - Tunnel car washes with spinning “brushes” are referred to as scratch-o-matics!
 - “Gentle” or “soft-cloth” car washes use a soft cloth hanging vertically that gently agitate the surface of your car’s paint. They are more gentle than the spinning brush tunnel washes, but they’re still abrasive!
 - “Touchless” car washes are ‘safer’ than the other types of washes, but they use harsh chemicals to do the “cleaning” which can ruin trim or paint

Better is to do your own washing, using good washing and drying techniques to keep your paint looking its best!

Why are we talking about this?

Because most of us won't take the time to hand-wash our cars. So what to do?

- AVOID abrasive brushes
- AVOID harsh chemicals
- Stick with the 'least abrasive' car wash option whenever possible – 'soft-cloth' (brushless) is preferred

AND

- ALWAYS activate 'Car Wash Mode' BEFORE entering a car wash tunnel

Here's what Tesla 'Car Wash' Mode Does

- Closes windows
- Locks charge ports
- Disables windshield wipers
- Disables Sentry mode
- Disables walk-away door locks
- Disables parking sensor chimes

Steps to Activate 'Car Wash' Mode

Do this first:

- Step 1: ensure your car is 'parked'
- Step 2: On the screen, press Controls, Service, then 'Car Wash Mode'
- Step 3: Select 'Enter Car Wash Mode' – only after you hit the secondary button will you be in Tesla car wash mode

Then activate the 'Free Roll' mode for the conveyor belt

- Step 4: Press the brake
- Step 5: Shift into drive mode
- Step 6: Select the 'Free Roll' button once it is visible - it will be blue when the Free Roll is on

See the next slide for steps to Deactivate 'Car Wash' Mode

Steps to Deactivate 'Car Wash' Mode

Once you're out of the car wash, you will need to disable Tesla car wash mode – there are two ways to disable it

- Turn it off by selecting the 'Exit Car Wash Mode' button. After selecting it, the Tesla will automatically push out of the mode. Or
- Drive. Once you get over 10 MPH, the Tesla will exit out of the mode.

Tips for Hand-Washing your Tesla

If you have the time and proper equipment, and decide to hand-wash your vehicle, here are a few tips:

- Ensure it is not in the sun to prevent evaporation because it can leave dirt and water spots on the surface.
- Clean the soap before it dries to prevent soap marks and further agitation.
- Ensure you stick with horizontal motions to avoid swirl marks.