

## How Much Will RCWS Accreditation Cost?

The scheme is a not-for-profit organisation, financed solely from site registrations and contributions from RCWS supporters. The accreditation fee is designed to cover the operational and development costs of the scheme and covers:

- Site audits and reports
- RCWS promotional material for accredited sites
- Consumer awareness activities
- Future development of the scheme

Category 1: £250 + VAT

Category 2: £50 + VAT

Further information about the RCWS Code of Practice can be found at [www.rcws.org.uk](http://www.rcws.org.uk) along with details of evidence requirements.

## Contact us

If you would like further information about the Responsible Car Wash Scheme or have a question regarding how to apply, please get in touch.

email: [admin@rcws.org.uk](mailto:admin@rcws.org.uk)

[www.rcws.org.uk](http://www.rcws.org.uk)

The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority work in partnership to protect vulnerable and exploited workers.

If you have any concerns about worker welfare, please contact us:

Telephone: 0800 432 0804

email: [intelligence@gla.gov.uk](mailto:intelligence@gla.gov.uk)

[www.gla.gov.uk](http://www.gla.gov.uk)

# THE RESPONSIBLE CAR WASH SCHEME

## # Fair Wash



## What Is The Responsible Car Wash Scheme?

The Responsible Car Wash Scheme (RCWS) is a not-for-profit scheme created to promote compliance and raise standards in the car wash industry. It has been established through the partnership of National and Local Government, the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, the Police, the Health and Safety Executive, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Environment Agency and the charity Unseen.

The aim of the RCWS is for car washes to provide a "Fair Wash". This means:

- to level the playing field for operators enabling them to compete on an equal footing with their competitors
- to educate operators on the regulations that apply and ensure they comply with them
- to be a positive force in improving conditions for workers; upholding their statutory rights and protecting them from exploitative work practices
- to protect the environment and the consumer

Registration is voluntary. In return accredited sites can display the RCWS logo and are promoted to consumers, enforcement agencies and local authorities as having met the RCWS Standard.

## Is My Car Wash Covered By The Scheme?

The RCWS covers all forms of car wash; fully and semi-automatic, self-service and hand car wash. The presence of workers and their role in the car wash/valeting process will determine the RCWS category.

**Category 1:** Sites where workers are physically engaged in car wash/valeting activities.

**Category 2:** Sites which are either fully automated or self-service.

Note: If workers are only engaged in taking payment or maintenance of the site, the site will be classified as category 2.

If you operate multiple sites, and achieve accreditation, you may be eligible to apply for RCWS Earned Recognition Accreditation for all of your sites at a reduced fee. For more information, please get in touch with [admin@rcws.org.uk](mailto:admin@rcws.org.uk).

## What Are The Benefits?

Accredited sites that can demonstrate that they meet the RCWS Code of Practice will enjoy the following benefits:

- Membership of a nationally recognised scheme supported by Government, the GLAA, the Police, Local Authorities as well as major industry brands.
- A competitive edge with prospective clients and customers, showing that you are a trusted service provider with a commitment to high standards.
- RCWS branding to display at your site, promoting to customers, enforcement agencies and local authorities that you have met the RCWS Code of Practice Standard.
- Listing on the RCWS website for accredited companies and suppliers.
- An independent assessment of your business operations against industry best practice as well as advice and guidance.
- Contributing to the campaign for a "Fair Wash"; protecting your business, your workers, the environment and customers.

## How Do I Apply?

Operators can apply for RCWS accreditation by visiting the website at [www.rcws.org.uk](http://www.rcws.org.uk) and completing the online application form. You will need to provide details of your business operation and answer questions relating to site health and safety and disposal of waste effluent.

To support the application, you will be asked to provide the following evidence:

- A photo of your site
- A copy of your Public and Employers Liability insurance
- A sample copy of the employment contract you provide to workers
- A sample copy of a recent pay slip and/or invoice for self-employed staff
- A photo of a health and safety poster displayed at your site
- A copy of your Motor Insurance policy if you move customers' vehicles

Membership of the scheme is conditional on the operator agreeing to being audited. Category 1 sites will be subject to an on-site audit while Category 2 sites will be subject to random audits.