

My name is Todd Gano, I own and operate a small Pressure washing company called Pressure Plus Inc out of Woodstock, Ga. Ok before you say Pressure washing industry? Yes there are about 400 of us in the North GA area who do this for a living. The average sales for a one man operation range from 70k-125k per year. Some Pressure washing businesses do upwards of 200-500k per year. Since the drought has hit we all have lost a lot of business along with many other industries such as landscaping. However unlike some other industries we have no voice to tell or educate people like the city councils or the public for that matter that we can in fact still operate under the requirements issued by the state of Ga and each individual county. Under the RULES OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION CHAPTER 391-3-30 . We (licensed Pressure washing businesses) are exempt from the water ban:

Link http://www.georgiaepd.com/Files_PDF/rules/rules_exist/391-3-30.pdf

Here lies the problem the city, and county governments are not specific enough regarding these rules and ordinances. Cobb County put in place new water restrictions on 10/30/07. Link <http://www.cobbcountyga.gov/drought-information.htm>

After I called the Cobb County water authority several times to specifically find out what I can do and can't do I was told that we can conduct business on a limited bases as long as we don't wash any flat surfaces. In other words we can wash a house but nothing else. Herein lies the issue since we are allowed to do something the Public does not know this. The public thinks that when they say Total Water Ban that means just that but it does not. There has been a lot of attention to the landscapers and Car Washes we just would like to have our 15 min as well to educate the public.

I wanted to get together several Pressure washing businesses to discuss the issue at hand. I was wondering if you would be interested in meeting with a few of us to get our side of the story maybe from a water conservation standpoint. IE: A typical business using commercial grade equipment would use less water that you would taking a 15 min shower to wash a house, or someone using a garden hose running 8 gals a minute uses more that we would using our pressure washers. Also there is a human interest story here that affects several thousand people including not only the businesses but the families as well.

Below you will find tips on pressure washing during a drought. Please note: these are specific to North GA drought restrictions. For information of your specific state or county please go to:

Most people are not aware that they **can** still have their home or driveway pressure washed by a Pressure Washing Company. They are not allowed to do it themselves, since they're individuals and not a business. However, businesses such as Pressure Washing Companies or Painting Contractors **are still allowed to conduct their daily business.**

Despite its remarkably better cleaning performance a pressure washer **uses dramatically less water** than a garden hose thus protecting the environment. Typically a garden hose with 60 psi water supply pressure uses up to 600 gallons of water per hour, whereas a pressure washer uses only about 180 gallons per hour but supplied at a pressure of 1500psi and upwards. Basically, *pressure washing uses about 80% less water than a garden hose.*

According to 391-3-30-.05 Exemptions 5 (h) as quoted below: (to view the entire rules click on the link below)

[RULES OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION](#)

[CHAPTER 391-3-30 OUTDOOR WATER USE](#)

(5) The following commercial outdoor water uses are exempt from the outdoor water use schedules of this rule.

(a) Professionally certified or licensed landscapers, golf course contractors, and sports turf landscapers: during installation and 30 days following installation only. Professional landscapers must be certified or licensed for commercial exemptions to apply.

(b) Irrigation contractors: during installation and as needed for proper Maintenance and adjustments only.

(c) Sod producers.

(d) Ornamental growers.

(e) Fruit and vegetable growers.

(f) Retail garden centers.

(g) Hydro-seeding.

(h) Power-washing.

(i) Construction sites.

(j) Producers of food and fiber.

(k) Car washes.

(l) Other activities essential to daily business.

(m) Watering-in of pesticides and herbicides on turf.

The above is an excerpt from the "Rules of Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division"

So, what's allowed and what's not allowed?

Here's a short list of what's NOT Allowed under the Level 4 watering emergency now in effect in north Georgia:

- Non-profit fund-raising car washes
- Water running in decorative fountains, including those that re-circulate water
- Homeowner watering grass seed or plants, including plantings they installed themselves in the last 30 days
- Car washing except at a commercial car wash
- Watering outdoors with unused water from a bathtub faucet
- Outside pressure washing by a homeowner

Here's what's IS Allowed under Level 4:

- Pressure washing done by a commercial professional washing business
- Watering outdoors with used bathtub water
- Watering newly planted (in the last 30 days) turfgrass or ornamentals by a certified or licensed professional landscaper. (The homeowner must have proof showing the materials were installed by a professional.)
- Watering a property from a private well or from a pond, lake or river
- Watering a personal food garden

To get a more information on water conservation, here is another informative website: <http://www.conservewatergeorgia.net/>

This information was all provided courtesy of PowerWash Of Atlanta. Visit www.PowerWashOfAtlanta.com.

Thank you Todd!