



News Articles



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Inspectors find dirt on books at Southern Calif. carwashes

A worker at Blue Wave Car Wash in West Los Angeles washes a vehicle. A Times investigation has found that hand carwashes, automotive beauty shops patronized by tens of thousands of Southern California motorists every day, often brazenly violate basic labor and immigration laws, with little risk of penalty. Owners frequently violate labor and immigration laws with little risk of penalty, officials say. Many workers are loath to complain, but some have formally accused their bosses of underpaying them ... [more](#)

At L.A. Carwashes, Taking A Stand

As organizers prepare to launch a union campaign, carwashers ponder the effect on their lives. "Badly," Varela answered, continuing to pass tickets to motorists as they pulled in. Curious, Gabriel Chavez crawled out of the car he was vacuuming. Keeping his gaze on the small window that the owner used to peer at his workers, he stepped toward the visitor, out of his boss' sightline. "Do you know you have rights?" the stranger asked Chavez ... [more](#)

Unions join to organize carwash workers

Leaders target 18,000 workers in Southern California. They also tell consumers what businesses to avoid.

Two of the nation's largest unions formally announced a campaign to organize Southern California's 18,000 carwash workers and offered consumers recommendations on how to avoid carwashes that violate minimum wage laws. "We will do whatever it takes to clean up the carwash industry," said Jon Hiatt, general counsel for the AFL-CIO, which launched the campaign with the United Steelworkers. At a news conference, union leaders urged consumers to ask owners about their pay practices, and to avoid carwashes ... [more](#)

More information may be found at the links below:

Clean Car Wash Campaign

The CLEAN Car Wash White Paper Executive Summary

The CLEAN Car Wash White Paper

What We Want . . .

Car Wash Photos

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Supporters of the CLEAN Car Wash Campaign

For 03.28.08 Los Angeles Times Article

go to: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-carwash28mar28,1,4919854.story>

For the Carwash Workers Organizing Committee's of the United Steelworkers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY of the situation, go to:

<http://www.usw.org/usw/program/adminlinks/docs//Car%20Wash%20Paper%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>