



International Carwash Association
Serving the Professional Car Care Industry

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Vehicle Alert: Toyota Urges Special Care for Washing Prius Hybrid Model



Toyota has introduced a redesigned gas and electricpowered Prius for 2004. Revolutionary, the hybrid gasand electric vehicle can get an astounding 60 MPG.

Not only is the propulsion under the hood unique totoday's standards, so is the customary ignition key. There is no ignition key, it has been replaced by akey "fob". The vehicle can be started by placing thekey "fob" in the key slot and pushing the power button.

However, because of the unique ignition system, complications can occur when the vehicle enters acar wash. Toyota has provided the following instructionsto clarify the correct procedure to allow a Prius to proceedthrough a car wash.

To Put Vehicle in Neutral Before Wash

- Car is moved into position and turned off by pressing the "power" button on the dash panel once - vehicle will be turned off.
- Leave key "fob" in key slot.
- Without foot on brake pedal, press "power" button twice – vehicle will be in full accessory mode.
- With foot on brake pedal, move gear shift to "N" position and hold for 1-2 seconds – vehicle will be off and in neutral.
- With key "fob" still in key slot, attendant may exit vehicle to begin wash.

To Drive Car After Wash

- After wash, the attendant may get back in the car. With the foot on the brake press the "power" button – vehicle will be on.
- With the foot still on the brake, move the gear shift to "D" position – vehicle will be in drive mode.
- Drive the vehicle off of the conveyor. With the foot on the brake, press the "P" button – vehicle will be in park.
- Press "power" button – vehicle will be turned off.

Additionally, Prius offers an option that is called Smart Entry Start. This technology allows customers to keep the key fob in their pocket and simply touch the door handle to open the door and then just push the "power" button to start the car. Car wash attendants may encounter scenarios when the customer may get out of the car and walk away while the key is in their pocket. If the car is still running, there are some audible and visual warnings to show that the key fob is out of range. The attendant will find it impossible to start the car without the key if it is turned off. To put the vehicle in accessory mode as described above, the attendant will need to retrieve the key from the customer in order to proceed. We recommend keeping the key fob in the key slot during the car wash. We mention this to alleviate any confused situations.

Although initially confusing and intimidating, the system will become simplified as usage becomes more frequent. Other car manufacturer's are introducing this feature in the near future, so the car wash owner-operators must accept this new concept and educate their employees to the recommended procedures.

The International Carwash Association would like to thank Toyota Motor Company for providing the proper instructions for car wash operators to follow when washing the 2004 Toyota Prius.