

Preventing Releases to the Storm Drain

Question: Can any liquids, solids, or spilled materials from carpet cleaning activities be discharged to the storm drain?

Answer: No. Carpet cleaning wash water or waste may not be discharged to the storm drain.

Question: Does the carpet cleaner have the equipment, material, and personnel to handle a spill or discharge (such as detergent)?

Answer: *Be prepared...*for any spill or discharge. Remember: *Pre-plan: Gather the right equipment and enough material ahead of time.*

Question: Is it safe for me to clean up spills and discharges?

Answer: *Know...*in advance, what you are handling and what to do; make sure staff are trained.

Question: When do I begin to clean up spills and discharges?

Answer: *Act...*immediately, using known and safe procedures, and try to contain the spilled material on your property.

Question: Do I need to report spills or discharges?

Answer: *Communicate ...*the spill to your supervisor as soon as possible.



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Water Quality Guidelines for Carpet Cleaning Activities



This brochure has been prepared to inform residents and businesses working in Yuba County of the guidelines recommended for proper disposal of carpet cleaning wash water in order to protect the water quality in storm drains, channels, creeks, rivers and ultimately the ocean.

Water Quality Guidelines for Carpet Cleaning Activities

This brochure is intended to explain the regulatory issues regarding the discharge of carpet cleaning wash water. This brochure also explains the procedures that should be followed when carpet cleaning is conducted either by yourself or by professional carpet cleaners.

When using water and detergents to clean carpets, residents and professional carpet cleaners should follow these guidelines in order to prevent waste or wash water from entering the storm drains where it flows untreated to creeks, rivers, estuaries, and ultimately to the ocean.

These guidelines apply even if the cleaning products are labeled "nontoxic" or "biodegradable." Although these products may be less harmful to the environment, they can still have harmful effects if they enter the storm drain untreated.



Filtering Wastewater

Both residents and professional carpet cleaners should be sure to filter the wash water from carpet cleaning before discharging it to the sanitary sewer since fibers and other debris in the wash water can clog pipes. The filtered material can be disposed of in the garbage, provided that the carpet was not contaminated with hazardous materials.

Residential Carpet Cleaners

Wash water from carpet cleaning must be discharged into a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system within your residence. The wash water should never be disposed of in a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain.

- ◆ Check with hired carpet cleaner to ensure the spent wash water tank is emptied into a utility sink or other indoor sewer connection.
- ◆ If you contract with a carpet cleaner regularly, arrange an appropriate location for the contractor to discharge cleaning wash water such as a utility sink, toilet, or sewer cleanout.

Professional Carpet Cleaners

Wash water from carpet cleaning must be discharged to a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system. **Never** to a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain.

- ◆ The spent cleaning fluid can be disposed of in a utility sink or other indoor sewer connection at your home base.
- ◆ Be prepared to contain any spill or discharge immediately.
- ◆ Or, contact the nearest wastewater treatment facility for additional disposal options.

Before you allow anything to go into the gutter or storm drain, stop and think!

Storm drains **do not** go to the sewer, they flow directly into channels and creeks, through wetlands and to the ocean.

Remember the ocean begins at your front door.