

Proper Disposal Tips



For Carpet Cleaners

**Keep carpet cleaning wash water
OUT of storm drains!**

The main source of water pollution today is urban runoff. Urban runoff is storm water that has flowed through our homes, streets and businesses, and carries a wide array of pollutants directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay. Pouring cleaning fluids or soapy wash water from carpet cleaning activities into the gutters or storm drains will damage sensitive habitats and kill wildlife.

Please remember – *Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!* Allowing any material (liquid or solid) to be dumped into the storm drain, hosed off the pavement into a storm drain or placed where it can be carried to the storm drain by rainwater is an illegal discharge and the individual could face civil and criminal prosecution for each violation.

What to do with carpet cleaning fluids?

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

- Arrange with your customer to discharge into a toilet or utility sink on their premises, after receiving authority from the local wastewater treatment authority.
OR
- Empty your spent cleaning fluid into a utility sink or other indoor sewer connection at your home base after receiving authority from your local wastewater treatment authority.

For more information on proper handling of carpet cleaning wash water see

www.cleanwaterprogram.com/publications_library/Resources.html.

Learn more about urban runoff pollution and the Alameda County Clean Water Program at

www.cleanwaterprogram.com.

Additional important information:

Improper handling and disposal that creates a discharge to a storm drain is illegal. Both the company and individuals responsible are subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

Also, be sure to **filter** the wash water from carpet cleaning before discharging to the sanitary sewer. Fibers and other debris in the wash water can cause clogging. The filtered material can go to the garbage, provided the carpet was not contaminated with hazardous materials. Hazardous materials cannot be discharged to the sanitary sewer (or disposed of as garbage). All hazardous waste must be properly managed and disposed.

These guidelines apply even to cleaning products labeled “**nontoxic**” and “**biodegradable.**” “Nontoxic” means the product is not toxic to the *user*. “Biodegradable” means the product will *eventually* break down. Such products can harm wildlife if they enter the storm drain.



Alameda Countywide
Clean Water Program
A Consortium of Local Agencies

If you are working in the:

The wastewater treatment agency to contact is:

Cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley,
Emeryville, Oakland, or Piedmont

East Bay Municipal Utility District
(EBMUD) (510) 287-1651

Unincorporated area of Castro Valley

Castro Valley Sanitary District (510) 537-0757

Cities of Dublin or Pleasanton

Dublin-San Ramon Services District
(925) 846-0568

Cities of Fremont, Newark, or Union City

Union Sanitary District (510) 477-7500

City of Hayward

City of Hayward (510) 881-7900

City of Livermore

City of Livermore (925) 960-8100

Cities of San Lorenzo, unincorporated
portions of San Leandro and Hayward

Oro Loma Sanitary District (510) 481-6971

City of San Leandro

City of San Leandro (510) 577-3401

For more information about the storm water program in your area, call 1-510-670-5543.