

Best Management Practices Carpet Cleaning Wastewater Disposal



Why is wastewater of concern from carpet cleaning operations?

Wastewater from carpet cleaning commonly contains harsh chemicals, detergents, dirt, carpet fibers, oils and grease. How and where you dispose of carpet cleaning wastewater matters. If disposed of improperly into storm drains or ditches, these common pollutants find their way to our waterways and harm the animals and plants that live there. Carpet cleaning businesses must implement appropriate best management practices (BMPs) to prevent illicit discharges into storm drains or ditches.

City of Wilmington - Illicit Discharge

An Illicit discharge is anything that enters the storm drainage system that is not composed entirely of rainwater or clean potable water. Anyone found responsible for causing a polluting substance to enter the storm drainage system will be subject to a fine up to **\$10,000 per violation** depending on amount and severity. For more information on what is considered an illicit discharge, please contact the City of Wilmington's Public Services Compliance Officer at 910-341-0092.



Stormwater Services

209 Coleman Drive
Wilmington, NC 28412
910-341-0092 or Dial 711 TTY Voice
www.wilmingtonnc.gov/stormwater

Best management practices help protect the environment.

Make the time to plan ahead. You can take simple steps to complete carpet cleaning work without polluting the environment. Make sure your equipment is well serviced and that all filters are operating properly. Maintain the tanks, hoses, and fittings to prevent wastewater leaks. Where possible, invest in cleaning equipment and cleaning practices that minimize water use. Train your operators and employees on appropriate carpet cleaning best management practices, as well as in pollution prevention and wastewater discharge requirements. Check with your clients when booking the job. Is this location on sewer or septic system?

Areas on a sewer system

Arrange with the client to allow you to discharge into the toilet, utility sink or sewer cleanout pipe on the premises. Manhole covers and storm drains may not be opened or accessed by carpet cleaners to dispose of the wastewater.

If this is not possible, plan to transport the wastewater off-site and dispose of it properly at an authorized sewage discharge point.

Areas on Septic Systems

If at a location with a septic system, plan to store wastewater and residues in a collection tank and transport them to an authorized sewage discharge point for proper disposal. Identify the wastewater disposal option that will be used and ensure that you meet all the requirements.

Smart Carpet Cleaning Practices

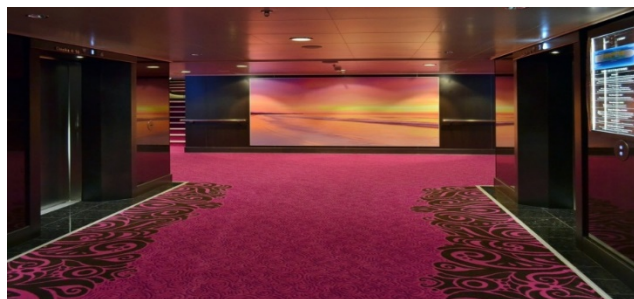
Assess the site: Before starting the job, do quick checks of the location of stormwater drains and ensure that they are protected from any runoff or spills.

Vacuum before cleaning: This minimizes the amount of debris in the wastewater.

Follow instructions: Always use the manufacturer's recommended type and quantity of chemicals. Remember, just because a product is biodegradable doesn't mean it can be discharged to a storm drain. Store and handle detergents and chemicals in a contained area where any spills will not enter the storm drain.

Filter all wastewater before discharging into the sewer system, since fibers and other debris in the wastewater can clog pipes. The filtered materials may be disposed of in the garbage, unless the waste is contaminated. Waste contaminated with hazardous pollutants must comply with hazardous materials disposal requirements.

Is your business part of the problem or part of the solution?



Contact the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority if you have questions.
community.compliance@cfpua.org