



SUMMARY

“wastewater discharged to any storm drainage system or into a manhole is illegal”

Regular cleaning of carpets is now widely practiced in homes and commercial premises to prolong the life of carpets and to ensure that living and working areas are hygienic. Because carpet cleaning activities generate wastewater, it is your responsibility to properly manage and dispose of this by-product.

- Wastewater is attributed to the facility or residence where it is generated; therefore, if the wastewater is not being collected and hauled off site for proper disposal, the carpet cleaner should arrange with the customer to dispose of the water at the cleaning site.
- Untreated wastewater may kill plants. Do not use it for landscape irrigation.
- These guidelines even apply to any cleaning products that are labeled “non-toxic” and/or “biodegradable”.
- Remember, clean water begins at your front door!

Compliance & Regulatory Affairs Office
Industrial Wastewater Control Section
2955 W Calle Agua Nueva
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**Compliance & Regulatory
Affairs Office**



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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Why is carpet & upholstery cleaning wastewater



Carpet cleaning creates wastewater that includes chemicals from the cleaning formula as well as waste products such as grease and organic matter

from the carpet itself. Many chemicals currently used are highly alkaline. Aggressive enzymes and disinfectants which if used or managed improperly can cause harm to humans and the environment. A standard cleaning formula may contain a high concentration of sodium bicarbonate and lower concentrations of sodium citrate, sodium phosphate, sodium silicate, anionic surfactant, and nonionic surfactant. Formulas can also contain dyes, polymers, enzymes, bleaches, and solvents of alcohols, esters, and glycol ethers. Some specialized cleaners also contain various forms of butyl, such as butyloxy ethanol (also known as butyl cellusolve) used in the “dry” cleaning method of carpet cleaning. This chemical can damage the central nervous system, kidneys, liver and blood.

Environmental Impact

- Any wastewater dumped into street or other stormwater drains may make its way into sensitive waterways that support aquatic plants and animals. Carpet cleaning chemicals and other residues in carpet cleaning wastewater may damage the fragile ecosystems.
- Some carpet-cleaning agents are directly toxic to aquatic life.
- Some cleaning chemicals act as nutrients that, if they enter waterways, can promote excessive algae growth.
- Other residues from carpet cleaning can add to nutrient loadings and may themselves be toxic under certain circumstances.

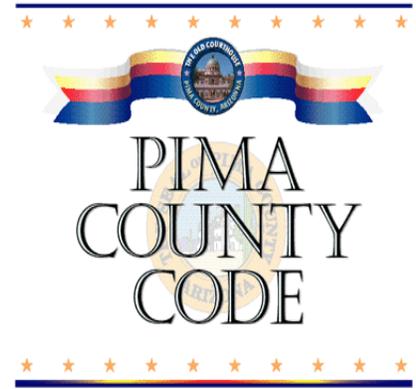
Disposal of cleaning wastewater

Wastewater and residues from carpet cleaning **must not** be discharged into any roadside gutter or drain, watercourse, storm water drain, well, bore, dam, manhole or onto the ground where they may soak into groundwater or run off into wetlands or streams.

Filtering Wastewater

Both residents and professional carpet cleaners should be sure to filter the washwater from cleaning operations prior to discharging it to the sanitary sewer since fibers and other debris in the wastewater can clog pipes and drains.

Wastewater from the cleaning operations must be discharged into a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system within the client’s residence/business. If the service provider has an Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit (see 13.36.110), then wastewater may be discharged at a connection located within the service provider’s



Chapter 13.20.025 PROHIBITS

Access to the public sanitary sewage conveyance system.

No person shall open or enter the public sanitary sewage conveyance system, or insert any object or dump any solid or liquid material into the public sanitary sewage conveyance system, or allow any object or any solid or liquid material to enter the public sanitary sewage conveyance system, except as authorized in advance by the department in accordance with established departmental directives.

Chapter 13.36.110

Permit Application

A.1.

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any industrial wastewater directly or indirectly to the POTW without first obtaining Director approval. Director approval is demonstrated by the issuance of an Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit. The Director shall set requirements at least as stringent as applicable State or Federal rules, regulations or pretreatment