



TIPS FOR CARPET AND STEAM CLEANING

Helpful hints for regulatory compliance and protecting local waterways.

Plan Before You Start

When performing wet cleaning work outdoors, preparation up front is the best way to keep harmful pollutants out of waterways. It's always easier to prevent pollution than to clean it up after the fact.

Background

Many people believe that water entering storm drains in streets and parking lots travels through the sewer and gets treated at the wastewater plant. Not true!

This water, called stormwater, flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers and the Bay. Allowing chemicals, oil and other contaminants to flow into these drains not only damages our environment, it is also violates federal, state and local laws.

Follow the Best Management Practices on the other side of this sheet to ensure a clean work area and prevent pollution. Thank you for protecting your environment and keeping Vallejo safe and clean!

For more information, please call the District's Stormwater Program at 707.644.8949 x1600.

To report a spill, call the 24-hour hotline at

707.644.8949

For emergencies, dial **911**.

REMEMBER THE THREE Cs

Control

Control your workspace. Perform as much dry cleaning as possible before you start using water. Remove any harmful chemicals or debris from the immediate area.

Contain

Contain any water that reaches the ground. When you perform washing and steam cleaning, the water picks up contaminants and is no longer clean. Take steps to ensure none of this water leaves your working area.

Capture

Capture the dirty water and dispose of it properly. Water should always be discharged to the sanitary sewer, unless it contains hazardous materials, but NEVER into a septic system.





Planning: Plan the job before you begin any work. If you plan to dispose of the dirty water on site, obtain permission from the property owner and locate a sanitary sewer clean out, sink or toilet. If they have a septic system or you are unable to discharge on location, make sure you have enough tank space to haul off all dirty water. If performing work outdoors, locate all nearby storm drains and block water's access to them using the best method available (e.g. rubber drain mats, berms, etc.).

Pre-Cleaning: Use dry methods to pre-clean the surface as much as possible. Vacuum carpets, rugs and drapes thoroughly and spot treat any stains. Sweep hard surfaces like concrete, tile and linoleum. Dispose of dry cleaning debris in the garbage.

Washing: Use as little water as possible to complete the job. This will minimize the amount you have to collect and dispose of. Choose environmentally-friendly, biodegradable products instead of harsh cleaners and use heat and steam whenever possible to reduce the need for chemicals.

Capturing: If work is being done outdoors, capture any runoff in a low spot, containment pool or wash bib, making sure no water leaves the working area.

Disposal: This water has picked up contaminants during the cleaning process and should NEVER be poured, pumped or dumped in the street or down a storm drain. Dispose of the water through the discharge point you selected. Water containing hazardous materials must be removed by a licensed hazardous waste hauler.

Cleaning water often contains debris and particles (e.g. pet hair, carpet fibers, etc.) and should always be filtered before being discharged to the sewer. Dispose of the filter debris in the garbage and then rinse equipment and filters into the sewer discharge point. If water can't be discharged on site, transport it to your office to discharge to the sanitary sewer there.

All discharges to the sanitary sewer must comply with Vallejo Flood & Wastewater District discharge standards (Section 4.12.080 of the District Code). Discharge standards can be found in the District Code at VallejoWastewater.org.