

PREVENTING RELEASES TO THE STORM SEWER SYSTEM

Question: Can any liquids, solids, or spilled materials from carpet cleaning activities be discharged into a the storm sewer such as a storm drain or ditch?

Answer: No. Wash water from carpet cleaning must be discharged to a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system.

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 is 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 the property.*

Question: Do I need to report spills or discharges?

Answer: *Communicate...the spill to your supervisor as soon as possible. It may be necessary for them to contact the local Illicit Discharge Coordinator in the community where the spill occurred.*

WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES FOR CARPET CLEANING ACTIVITIES



This brochure has been prepared to inform residents and businesses in Northeastern Wisconsin of the recommended procedures for proper disposal of carpet cleaning wash water.

These guidelines will help protect the water quality in our storm drains, ditches, streams, rivers and lakes.

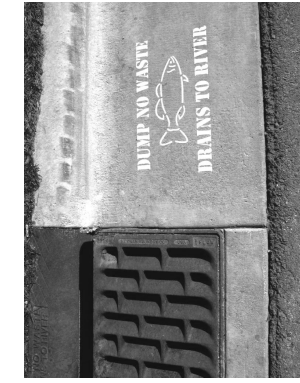
[INSERT LOCAL COMMUNITY NAME]

[INSERT LOCAL COMMUNITY
ADDRESS]

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 carpet, residents and professional carpet cleaners should follow these guidelines in order to prevent waste or wash water from entering the storm sewer system through storm drains or ditches where it flows un-



treated to waterways such as streams, rivers, and lakes.

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 sewer untreated.

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, ditch 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. It may be necessary to contact [INSERT IDDE COORDINATOR NAME AND PHONE #].
- Or, contact the nearest wastewater treatment facility for additional disposal options.

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, ditch 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.

- In 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.

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.

REMEMBER A HEALTHY COMMUNITY BEGINS AT YOUR FRONT DOOR!!

- Before you allow anything to go into the storm sewer system, stop and think!
- Storm drains and ditches **do not** go to the sanitary sewer, they flow directly into waterways such as streams, rivers and lakes.



Visit NEWaterWisconsin.org
to learn more about cleaner
water in Northeast Wisconsin.

North East Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium

This brochure was created by the Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium (NEWSC) with information provided by the Yuba County, California Public Works Department.