

Did you know?

Discharging Carpet Wastewater to a Storm Drain is Illegal

Storm drains discharge water directly to our lakes, creeks, rivers and waterways UNTREATED. This is why it is dangerous *and illegal* to dispose of carpet-cleaning wastewater into the storm drain system. Wastewater contains toxic chemicals and can harm humans, sensitive habitats and wildlife.

Carpet wastewater is likely to contain chemicals from the cleaning formula, as well as waste products like grease and organic matter from the carpet or upholstery. Additionally, aggressive enzymes and disinfectants can cause harm to humans and the environment.

Some carpet-cleaning agents are directly toxic to plants or animal life. These cleaning chemicals can act as nutrients and can promote excessive algae growth. Other residues from carpet cleaning may add to nutrient loadings and may themselves be toxic under certain circumstances.

You must properly manage and dispose of the wastewater by-product. Discharge filtered wastewater from the cleaning operations to a sink, toilet, bathtub, or other drainage systems connected to the public sanitary sewer system.

Do not dump carpet cleaning waste into septic drain systems. The cleaning additives in the chemicals used to clean your carpet can damage the septic system by breaking up the sludge and scum layers in the septic tank, causing them to flush out of the septic tank and clog the drainfield.

Please do not dump your carpet wastewater outside onto the ground, driveway, street, or storm drain catch basin. This will ultimately impact our ground water supply, our creeks and the Green/Duwamish River, which eventually flows to the Puget Sound.

If you hire an outside company to come to your home to clean the carpets, be sure that *they* do not dump their dirty wash water onto the ground or into a storm drain catch basin.

Smart Carpet Cleaning Tips

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

Follow instructions: Always use the recommended type and quantity of chemicals according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Filter all wastewater: Use a fine mesh screen to filter out the solids prior to discharging waste water to a toilet or sink.

Filtered material can be disposed of in garbage, as long as the carpet was not contaminated with hazardous material.

If the wastewater does contain hazardous materials, it should be taken to a facility equipped to handle such wastewater. Contact King County's Wastewater Treatment Division at 206-263-3000 for more information.

REMEMBER – the water in gutters, ditches and storm drains flows directly to our local creeks, streams, river and Puget Sound with no wastewater treatment. Cleaning fluids and soapy water can damage sensitive habitats and kill wildlife.

This information applies 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, but may still be damaging to the environment.

**ALL WASTEWATER
GOES TO SEWER
SYSTEM!**



For additional information, please contact Greg Villanueva, City NPDES Coordinator, at 206-431-2442, or email Greg.Villanueva@TukwilaWA.gov.