



Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Carpet Cleaning Industry

Storm Water Is Important To All Of Us

Throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, storm drains flow directly into our creeks and lakes. That means anything dumped down a storm drain goes directly to our creeks and lakes and can negatively impact water quality.

Storm Water Services has many programs to protect water quality. They include enhancement and restoration of waterways, maintenance of the storm drainage system, enforcement of pollution control regulations and education.



Carpet Cleaning Industry Problems



Wastewater from carpet and upholstery cleaning commonly contains harsh chemicals, detergent, carpet fibers, and dirt. The wastewater should never be disposed of into storm drains or onto the ground. Storm drains lead directly to a stream or lake without any treatment, so any wastewater dumped into them can be very harmful to water quality and aquatic life..

You may already be implementing many of the best management practices (BMPs) described in this flyer. However, if you discover any potential problem areas, please consider using one or more of the recommended BMPs.

Solutions

Since preventing pollution is much easier than cleaning up after the fact, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have adopted ordinances for storm water management. These local ordinances prohibit the discharge of any pollutants into the storm drainage system, streams, lakes, or other surface waters.

Following the best management practices for the carpet cleaning industry that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent water pollution from your business and prevent fines.



VIOLATIONS OF THESE ORDINANCES COULD RESULT IN LOCAL FINES OF UP TO \$10,000 PER DAY, PER EVENT.

For More Information



To get more information on storm water rules and regulations regarding the carpet cleaning industry call 311 or visit <http://stormwater.charmeck.org> and click on Pollution Prevention.

Following the tips in this flyer can help stop storm water pollution.

Carpet Cleaners

Wastewater Disposal



- ◆ Discharge wastewater into a sink, toilet, tub, sewer cleanout pipe or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system.
- ◆ Before disposing of wastewater, filter it to remove carpet fibers and other solids in order to prevent pipe clogs.
- ◆ Filtered materials can be disposed of in the regular trash unless it contains hazardous materials.
- ◆ For each job, maintain a log of wastewater disposal including disposal method, volume and any special handling.

Utilities Requirements

- ◆ Do not lift a sewer manhole to discharge wastewater – it is illegal to do so.
- ◆ Check with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities about other requirements for discharge to the sanitary sewer. Call 311.
- ◆ Additional restrictions apply including limits on volume and pollution amount.



Cleaning Products

- ◆ These practices and guidelines apply even if cleaning products are labeled “non-toxic” or “biodegradable”.
- ◆ “Non-toxic” means the product is not toxic to the user.
- ◆ “Biodegradable” means the product will eventually break down.
- ◆ Such products can still harm aquatic life, so never dispose of the products or resulting wastewater on the ground or into a storm drain.

Spills

- ◆ Be aware that cleanup of hazardous spills and materials may cause the wastewater to be classified as hazardous waste, which requires special handling and disposal.
- ◆ Maintain cleaning equipment (tanks, hoses and fittings) to prevent wastewater leaks.
- ◆ Carry spill response materials on business vehicles in case a spill occurs.
- ◆ Do not hose down outside spills.
- ◆ Report spills and leaks that enter the storm drain system to 311.



Employee Training

- ◆ Train all employees upon hiring and each year thereafter.
- ◆ Post these Best Management Practices where employees can see them.
- ◆ Report illegal dumping by calling 311.

Visit stormwater.charmeck.org and click on pollution prevention for more information.