

# Preventing Stormwater Pollution



## Best Management Practices for Disposing of Carpet Cleaning Wastewater

In order to protect our waterways, it is illegal to discharge anything but rain water into streets, culverts, or storm sewers. The detergents, solvents, and dirt from carpet cleaning wastewater are pollutants that can degrade water quality and damage stream ecosystems.

### **You can help keep Kentucky's waterways clean by following these Best Management Practices for carpet cleaning wastewater disposal.**

- Train employees and contractors to avoid dumping carpet cleaning wastewater on the ground or into storm drains, gutters, ditches, streets, or waterways.
- Cleaners labeled "biodegradable" or "non-toxic" can still harm streams and must never be discharged to the storm sewer system.
- Install signs at the workplace and in vehicles notifying employees of Best Management Practices.
- Wastewater from carpet cleaning operations may be disposed of in a mop or utility sink, a toilet, or any other drain connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Debris such as hair and fiber can clog pipes and cause sewer back-ups. To avoid this, solids should be screened and disposed of in the trash before wastewater is discharged to the sanitary sewer. An oil/water separator may also be used.
- Properly maintain cleaning equipment and holding tanks to prevent leaks and spills.
- Store cleaning chemicals, detergents, and other products indoors or in a locked shed. Ensure that all containers are secure to avoid spills.

**Disposing of carpet cleaning wastewater  
in storm drains, creeks, and  
waterways is prohibited by law.  
Violators will be subject to penalties  
including Notices of Violation,  
Civil Citations, and fines.**

For more information about local  
water quality issues, please contact:  
LFUCG Division of Water Quality  
301 Lisle Industrial Avenue  
Lexington, KY 40511  
Phone: (859) 425-2400  
Email: [cknoll@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:cknoll@lexingtonky.gov)

