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 wastewaster 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.
- If a spill of wastewater or chemicals occurs, contain and clean up the spill immediately. Every vehicle should contain a spill clean-up kit for this purpose.

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:
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