

Smart Carpet Cleaning Tips

Discharging Carpet Waste Water to a Storm Drain Is Illegal

Carpet cleaning is widely practiced in homes and commercial premises to prolong the life of carpets and to ensure that living and working areas are clean and sanitary.

Carpet cleaning activities generate wastewater. It is the responsibility of the carpet cleaning service to properly manage and dispose of this by-product.

Wastewater is attributed to the location where it is generated. If the wastewater is not being collected and hauled offsite for proper disposal, the carpet cleaner must arrange with the customer to dispose of the wastewater at the cleaning location.

Untreated wastewater may kill plants. Do not use carpet wastewater for landscape irrigation or otherwise dump on the ground.

The wastewater disposal requirements discussed in this brochure also apply to cleaning products that are labeled “non-toxic” and/or “biodegradable.”



- Check with your clients: When booking the job, check if this location is on sewer or septic system. If on a septic system, store the wastewater in a collection tank and transport to an authorized sewage discharge point to avoid damage to the septic system.
- Assess the site: Before starting the job locate stormwater drains and ensure that they are protected from any runoff or spills.
- Vacuum before 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: Before discharging into the sewer system. Filter to prevent clogging.
- Dispose of wastewater properly: (See Proper Disposal Methods for more details).

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING WASTE DISPOSAL

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)



UTILITY DEPARTMENT

City of Bend
62975 Boyd Acres Rd.
Bend, Oregon 97701
(541) 317-3000
bendoregon.gov/stormwater
bendoregon.gov/cleanwaterworks

Why Is Disposal of Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning Wastewater Regulated?

Carpet and upholstery cleaning wastewater may contain chemicals from the cleaning formula, as well as waste products such as grease and organic matter from the carpet or upholstery. 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 in water and can promote excessive algae growth. Other residues from carpet cleaning may add to nutrient loadings and may themselves be toxic under certain circumstances.

Carpet cleaning wastewater that gets dumped onto streets or into storm drains can leach into the ground towards our drinking water supplies or directly to the Deschutes River. For these reasons such activity is a violation of City Code.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Train operators and employees on pollution prevention and wastewater discharge requirements.

Make sure your equipment is well serviced and that all filters are operating properly. Maintain the tanks, hoses, and fittings to prevent leaks.

Where possible, invest in cleaning equipment and cleaning practices that minimize water use and proper disposal method.

Proper Disposal Methods

Wastewater Disposal Prohibitions

It is prohibited to discharge wastewater and residues from carpet cleaning onto any paved surfaces, into the gutter or storm drain or directly onto the ground because it can contaminate our rivers and underground drinking water.

Filtering of Wastewater

Residents and professional carpet cleaners should be sure to filter the washwater from carpet cleaning before discharging it to the sanitary sewer since fibers and other debris in the wastewater can clog pipes.

Acceptable Waste Disposal Methods

Discharged filtered wastewater from the cleaning operations to a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system within the client's residence/business or at an appropriate disposal facility (e.g. R.V. dump station or recycling carwash recycling with owner approval). Alternatively, use a closed loop water recycle system can be used.

The filtered material can be disposed of in the garbage, provided that the carpet was not contaminated with hazardous materials, which cannot be discharged to the sanitary sewer. For additional information contact the City's Industrial Pretreatment Program at (541) 322-6348 prior to disposal.

Septic Systems

Do not dump carpet cleaning waste into septic systems. Store wastewater in a collection tank and transport to an authorized sewage discharge point.

Code Requirements

City Code 16.20.010 General Requirements and Prohibitions - A. An illicit discharge is anything not entirely composed of stormwater that is allowed to enter a storm drainage system that discharges to surface water or groundwater. Dumping materials into or that may reach a storm drain facility, including but not limited to a storm drain inlet, a dry well or drill hole, or connecting a wastewater pipe into the storm drainage system, are prohibited under various state and local laws and result in illicit discharge.... Any illicit discharge to any storm drain, dry well or drill hole, including the municipal separate storm sewer system, underground injection controls and private storm drainage systems, is a violation of this title unless exempted by section 16.20.030.

City Code 16.20.040 Discharge Pursuant to Bend's Stormwater Quality Permits or Regulations - B. Violation of stormwater quality permits or regulations. Any discharge that would cause a violation of Bend's NPDES permit, TMDL, or WPCF-UIC permit and any amendments, revisions or re-issuance thereof, either separately considered or when combined with other discharges, is prohibited. Liability for any such discharge shall be the responsibility of the person(s) causing or responsible for the discharge.

Oregon DEQ BMPs for Washing Activity (March 1998). 6.2 mobile washing service such as carpet cleaners must collect and discharge all waste water to a sanitary sewer or collect and treat waste water in a closed loop recycle system. Disposal to sanitary sewer must be in accordance with the requirements of the local sewer authority.



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats and audio cassette tape please contact Karin Morris at accessibility@bendoregon.gov and/or (541) 693-2141.