

## IC3. CARPET CLEANING

### Pollution Prevention

Consider pollution prevention measures at all times for improving pollution control. Implementation of pollution prevention measures may reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more costly or complicated procedures.

Discharge wash water to sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system.

The following pollution prevention principles apply to most industries:

- Affirmative Procurement - Use alternative, safer, or recycled products.
- Redirect storm water flows away from areas of concern.
- Reduce use of water or use dry methods.
- Reduce storm water flow across facility site.
- Recycle and reuse waste products and waste flows.
- Move or cover potential pollution from storm water contact.
- Provide on-going employee training in pollution prevention.

### Best Management Practices

#### Discharge wash water to sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system.

- Never discharge wash water to a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain. Either:
  - empty the spent cleaning fluid tank into a utility sink or other indoor sewer connection at the service provider's home base
  - or
  - arrange with the customer to discharge into a toilet or utility sink on their premises.
- Check the local wastewater authority's requirements for discharge.
- Filter wash water before discharging to the sanitary sewer to avoid clogging pipes. Dispose of filtered material in the garbage, provided the carpet was not contaminated with hazardous materials.
- These guidelines apply even to cleaning products labeled "nontoxic" and "biodegradable."

### Training

1. **Train employees on these BMPs, storm water discharge prohibitions, and wastewater discharge requirements.**
2. **Train employees on proper spill containment and cleanup.**
  - Establish training that provides employees with the proper tools and knowledge to immediately begin cleaning up a spill.
  - Ensure that employees are familiar with the site's spill control plan and/or proper spill cleanup procedures.
  - BMP IC17 discusses Spill Prevention and Control in detail.
3. **Establish a regular training schedule, train all new employees, and conduct annual refresher training.**
4. **Use a training log or similar method to document training.**

### References

Water Quality Guidelines for Carpet Cleaning Activities. Orange County Stormwater Program. Prepared by Watershed & Coastal Resources Division. January 2002. On-line:

[http://www.ocwatersheds.com/PublicEducation/pe\\_brochures\\_carpet.asp](http://www.ocwatersheds.com/PublicEducation/pe_brochures_carpet.asp)

Orange County Stormwater Program. 2002. Water Quality Guidelines for Carpet Cleaning Activities. March.