

Mobile Cleaning – Carpets & Upholstery



Photo Credit: Geoff Brosseau

Description

This category includes businesses that both conduct their own mobile cleaning activities and those that are hired as contractors to conduct these activities. Mobile cleaning differs from other cleaning activities in that the cleaning is not conducted in a dedicated, fixed location with a wastewater capture and treatment system connected to the sanitary sewer system. This category includes cleaning of carpets and upholstery. Information specific to: other amenities, transportation-related cleaning, food service business-related cleaning, or surface cleaning is provided in other guide sheets.

Pollutant Sources

The following are sources of pollutants:

- Cleaning chemicals
- Carpet fibers

Pollutants can include:

- Toxic organic compounds

Approach

Never discharge wash water or wastewater from these activities to the street, gutter, or near a storm drain.

Source Control BMPs

The best management practices are listed by activity or area.

- Cleaning waste must be discharged to a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system – never 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



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- Arrange with the customer to discharge into a toilet or utility sink on their premises.
- Check the local wastewater authority's requirements for discharge.

These guidelines apply even to cleaning products labeled “nontoxic” and “biodegradable.” “Nontoxic” means the product is not toxic to the user. “Biodegradable” means the product will eventually break down. Such products can harm wildlife if they enter a storm drain.

Treatment Control BMPs

The use of self-contained, mobile wastewater collection/treatment units may be appropriate and cost-effective for some mobile cleaning activities.

More Information

Booklets, Checklists, Fact Sheets, and Pamphlets

Fairfield-Suisun Urban Runoff Management Program, 1999. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Practices for Mobile Cleaning Activities, Guidance for Mobile Washers Who Clean Buildings Exteriors, Flat Work, Sidewalks, Drive-Throughs, Plazas, Parking Areas or Who Perform Fleet Washing, Auto Detailing, Carpet Cleaning, or Food-Related Cleaning Activities.

References

Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group, 1995. Pollution Prevention Tips for Carpet Cleaners.

City of Santa Rosa, 2001. A Clean Water Guide for the Cleaning Industry – Carpet Cleaner Guidelines.

City of Vacaville, 1993. Small Quantity Generator Program Mobile Sources – Carpet Cleaners.

Fairfield-Suisun Urban Runoff Management Program, 1999. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Practices for Mobile Cleaning Activities, Guidance for Mobile Washers Who Clean Buildings Exteriors, Flat Work, Sidewalks, Drive-Thrus, Plazas, Parking Areas or Who Perform Fleet Washing, Auto Detailing, Carpet Cleaning, or Food-Related Cleaning Activities.

King County Surface Water Management Division, 1995. Stormwater Pollution Control Manual. Best Management Practices for Businesses.

(<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/dss/spcm.htm>)

Sacramento Stormwater Program, 2000. Clean Water Business Partner Program.