

BG-60 Mobile Cleaning—Carpets and Upholstery



Photo Credit: Geoff Brosseau

Pollutant Sources

- Cleaning chemicals
- Carpet fibers

Relevant Pollutants

- Toxic organic compounds

Description

This category includes businesses that conduct their own mobile cleaning activities as well as 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 a 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.

Approach

Never discharge wash water or wastewater from these activities to the driveway, street, gutter, or near a storm drain. The potential for generating stormwater pollution as part of these activities requires extra attention because by definition these activities are conducted outside with water (and sometimes chemicals) for the purpose of removing residues, dirt, and debris. Make stormwater pollution prevention best management practices (BMPs) and proper wastewater disposal a part of standard operating procedures and the employee training program. Provide employee education materials in the first language of employees, as necessary.



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Source Control BMPs

The best management practices (BMPs) are listed in this table by activity or area.

Disposal of Wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Check the local municipal sewer agency's or wastewater authority's requirements for special discharge requirements.□ Discharge cleaning waste to a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system. Never discharge it to a driveway, street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain. <p>Either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Collect the spent cleaning fluid tank and transport it the service provider's facility and properly dispose of it in a utility sink or other connection to the sanitary sewer. <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Arrange with the customer to discharge it into a toilet or utility sink at the residential or commercial location.
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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. These products can harm wildlife if they enter a storm drain.

Treatment Control BMPs

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

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References

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