

Clean Water is Everyone's Business

Puget Sound
Starts Here

Best Management Practices for

Mobile Carpet Cleaners

Carpet and furniture steam cleaners and dry cleaners have an important role in reducing stormwater pollution by assuring that cleaning fluids are not being released into the storm drain system. Did you know that storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems or waste treatment plants? The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Throughout our community, storm drains flow directly into our creeks, rivers, and marine waters without any treatment. Wastewater from carpet and upholstery cleaning commonly contains harsh chemicals, detergent, carpet fibers and dirt. These and other pollutants can contaminate our waterways, making them unsafe for people and wildlife.

Why is proper stormwater management important to your mobile business?

- Cutting the risk of pollution and spills helps keep your workplace and your clients' neighborhood clean and safe.
- Stormwater pollution is a major threat to streams and rivers in our community and throughout Puget Sound. By following best management practices your business will help prevent pollution, comply with regulations, protect public health, and protect the health of our streams, rivers, and marine water resources.

The Solution: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Best Management Practices (BMP's) are procedures that help to prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep stormwater clean.

Preparing to Work

- Educate staff about preventing stormwater pollution.
- Identify stormwater entry points at each job and ensure your wastewater cannot flow into them – protect with bunds (tubes of geotextile similar to sandbags) if needed.
- Ensure that the filters on your cleaning equipment meet local specifications.
- Keep your equipment maintained, to cut the risk of leaks, and regularly cleaned so that any leaks can be seen quickly.
- Explain your practices to your customers and set a good example!



On the Job

- Use low-toxin, low-surfactant and non-toxic materials whenever possible.
- Rinse out detergent containers into your cleaning machine to use the very last of your detergent.
- Control powders and airborne sprays so they cannot land on surfaces where rain will wash them down the drain.
- Any materials that could wash away must be stored safely to stop them getting into stormwater drains.
- Always rinse equipment and filters into a sink (or your container) or onto grass where water can soak in.

Wastewater Disposal

- Discharge wastewater into a sink, toilet, tub, sewer cleanout pipe or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system.
- Before disposing of wastewater, filter it to remove carpet fibers and other solids in order to prevent pipe clogs.
- Filtered materials can be disposed of in the regular trash unless it contains hazardous materials.
- For each job, maintain a log of wastewater disposal including disposal method, volume and any special handling.
- Do not lift a sewer manhole to discharge wastewater – it is illegal to do so.

Make a Plan to Deal with Spills

- Do not hose spills down the drain – if the spill gets into the stormwater system you may be prosecuted for pollution.
- Get a spill kit, know how to use it and have it readily available when you are on the job. A spill kit should include:
 - Protective clothing
 - Absorbing and cleaning agents – sand, sawdust, absorbent pads/pellets, 'kitty litter', mops, brooms and rags
 - Portable bunds to direct spills or wash-water away from drains to clean-up areas
 - Shovels, brooms and dustpans to sweep up solid or powder spills



Employee Training

- Train all employees upon hiring and each year thereafter.

Numbers to call for more information on Best Management Practices or to report spills or an illicit discharge:

City of Anacortes – 293-1921

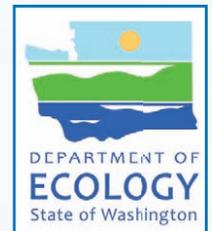
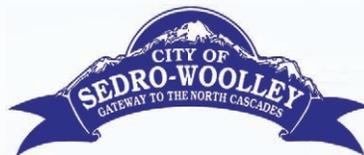
City of Burlington – 755-9715

City of Mount Vernon – 336-6204

City of Sedro-Woolley – 855-0771

Skagit County – 336-9400

Washington Department of Ecology – (425) 649-7000



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For information about other stormwater education
programs and volunteer opportunities contact the
Skagit Conservation District office at (360) 428-4313 or
visit our website: www.skagitcd.org**

Do your part to keep the Skagit waterways clean. You can make a difference!