



Best Management Practices



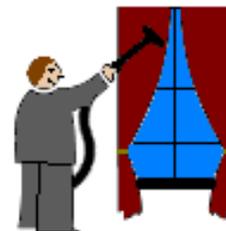
MOBILE CLEANERS CARPET CLEANERS

UPHOLSTERY CLEANERS DRAPERY CLEANERS

Liquid effluent from cleaning operations may contain contaminants such as suspended solids and heavy metals. A significant portion of the suspended solids is non-biodegradable fibers and grit. This material can block lateral pipes, as well as accumulate in sewage collection systems and contribute to abrasion of pumps and obstruction of screens. Also, material that passes through wastewater treatment systems will tend to persist in the marine receiving environment.

1. Never discharge cleaning activity wastewater to the street, gutters, parking lots, storm drainage system, lawns, ditches, groundwater or surface water.
2. Discharge cleaning operations wastewater to a sink, toilet or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system. Arrange with the client to discharge into the toilet or utility sink on the premises. **Screen wastewater to protect the customer's drain from plugging up.**
3. Empty spent cleaning fluid tanks into a utility sink or other indoor sewer connection at the businesses home base. **Screen wastewater to protect your drain from plugging up.**
4. Do not discharge cleaning operations wastewater to the ground.
5. Do not discharge to an onsite septic system as chemicals may disrupt function of system and potentially contaminate groundwater and drinking water.
6. Mobile cleaners should have the equipment, materials and personnel to handle a spill. Take preventative action to act quickly to reduce illegal discharge.
7. Contact the LOTT Clean Water Alliance (360-528-5725) to verify the need for a discharge authorization whenever you encounter a questionable substance, i.e. chemical spills, condemned and forensic clean-ups.

The above information applies 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 but may still be damaging to the environment.



REMEMBER, almost everywhere in Thurston County, water in gutters, ditches and storm drains flows directly to local creeks, streams, lakes and Puget Sound with no wastewater treatment. Cleaning fluids and soapy water can damage sensitive habitats and kill wildlife.

FACT: Detergents, spot cleaners, and similar chemicals may include one or all of the following and should never be discharged to the street, gutters, parking lots, storm drains, ditches or surface water.

- Phosphorus/Phosphates: Adds nutrients to water bodies accelerating and promoting algae growth which depletes oxygen levels
- Chlorine: Lethal to aquatic life at levels below what we can measure
- Ammonia: Changes water chemistry, toxic to aquatic life and makes a possibly lethal mixture when combined with chlorine
- Phosphoric Acid: Toxic to aquatic organisms
- Potassium Hydroxide: Toxic to aquatic organisms in low concentrations
- Nitritotriacetic Acid: Harmful to aquatic life
- TCE (Trichloroethene): Degrades slowly in groundwater, probable human carcinogen, is broken down by soil microbes to vinyl chloride, a human carcinogen
- PCE (Perchloroethylene or Tetrachloroethylene): Persistent in groundwater, a human carcinogen
- Wastewater can have a very high or very low pH
- Creates turbid water due to suspended solids, carpet fibers, and oils which affects growth of aquatic plants by reducing sunlight

