

“Discharging wastewater to a storm drain or manhole is illegal.”

Carpet cleaning is widely practiced in homes and commercial premises to prolong the life of carpets and to ensure that living and working areas are hygienic.

Carpet cleaning activities generate wastewater and it is the responsibility of the carpet cleaning service to properly manage and dispose of this by-product.



Wastewater is attributed to the location where it is generated. If the wastewater is not being collected and hauled offsite for proper disposal, the carpet cleaner must arrange with the customer to dispose of the wastewater at the cleaning location.

Untreated wastewater may kill plants. Do not use wastewater for landscape irrigation.

The wastewater disposal requirements discussed in this brochure also apply to cleaning products that are labeled “non-toxic” and/or “biodegradable.”

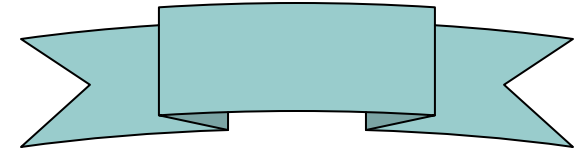
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Pima County Industrial Wastewater Control Section / 520-443-6200

Pima County Department of Environmental Quality / 520-243-7400



Pima County Department
of Environmental Quality
33 N. Stone Ave., Suite 700
Tucson Arizona 85701



**CARPET CLEANING &
WASTEWATER DISPOSAL:
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**



Pima County
Department of Environmental Quality
33 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 700
Tucson, Arizona 85701
520-243-7400

www.deq.pima.gov/water/stwmgmprog.html



Why is the Disposal of Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Wastewater Regulated?



Carpet and upholstery cleaning activities produce wastewater. Wastewater may contain chemicals from the cleaning formula, as well as waste products such as grease and organic matter from the carpet or upholstery. Aggressive enzymes and disinfectants, which if used or managed improperly, can cause harm to humans and the environment.

Standard cleaning formulas may contain significant concentrations of sodium bicarbonate and lower concentrations of sodium citrate, sodium phosphate, sodium silicate, and surfactants. Formulas may also contain dyes, polymers, enzymes, bleaches, and solvents of alcohols, esters, and ethers.

Specialized cleaners may contain various forms of butyl, which is used in the “dry” method of carpet cleaning. Excessive exposure to this chemical can cause damage to the central nervous system, kidneys, and liver.

Environmental Impacts

Wastewater dumped onto streets or into storm drains will eventually enter washes or sensitive desert environments. If disposed of in such a manner, carpet cleaning chemicals and other carpet cleaning wastewater residues will damage these fragile ecosystems.

Some carpet-cleaning agents are directly toxic to plants or animal life. These cleaning chemicals can act as nutrients in the desert environment and can promote excessive algae growth.

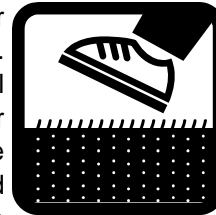
Other residues from carpet cleaning may add to nutrient loadings and may themselves be toxic under certain circumstances.

Wastewater Disposal Prohibitions

It is prohibited to discharge wastewater and residues from carpet cleaning into any roadside gutter or diversion, watercourse, dry wash, storm drain, well bore, dam, manhole, or directly onto the ground. Indiscriminately dumping wastewater into the environment can contaminate desert ecosystems and possibly ground water resources.

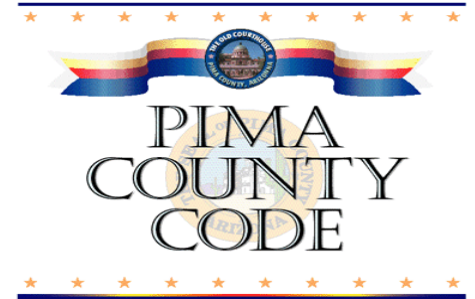
Filtering of Wastewater

Residents and professional carpet cleaners should be sure to filter wastewater from cleaning operations prior to discharging the wastewater to the sanitary sewer. Filtering the wastewater will remove fibers and other debris present in the wastewater. Unfiltered wastewater can introduce pollutants into the environment.



Acceptable Wastewater Disposal Methods

Wastewater from the cleaning operations must be discharged to a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system within the client’s residence/business. If the service provider has an Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit, wastewater may be discharged at a connection located within the service provider’s home base.



Chapter 13.20.025

PROHIBITS access to the public sanitary sewage conveyance system.

No person shall open or enter the public sanitary sewage conveyance system, or insert any object or dump any solid or liquid material into the public sanitary sewage conveyance system, or allow any object or any solid or liquid material to enter the public sanitary sewage conveyance system, except as authorized in advance by the department in accordance with established departmental directives.

Chapter 13.36.110

PROHIBITS industrial wastewater discharge to a Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (POTW) without the Director’s approval.

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any industrial wastewater directly or indirectly to the POTW without first obtaining Director approval. Director approval is demonstrated by the issuance of an Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit.

