

# Cleaning Your Carpets

## Do you know where the water goes?



The **“DON’T DUMP !”** signs are placed next to storm drains to remind everyone that gutters and storm drains carry rain as well as any pollutants directly to arroyos, creeks and the ocean without any treatment.

Disposing of cleaning solutions or soapy water into gutters and storm drains can harm or kill wildlife and create foul odors in your neighborhood, *even if it’s labeled nontoxic or biodegradable.*

Wastewater from carpet cleaning needs to be treated at a wastewater treatment plant. Indoor drains, like sinks and toilets, drain to the sanitary sewer system which carries wastewater to a treatment plant where pollutants are removed.

### Proper Disposal of Wastewater

Carpet cleaning wastewater should be disposed of in one of the following ways:

- If it is acceptable to you, a sink, toilet, washing machine drain pipe or floor drain in your home may be used to dispose of wastewater. A strainer is needed to prevent debris from clogging your drains. Debris collected from wastewater cleaning can be disposed of in the trash.
- If you don’t have a drain that can be used, all wastewater should be hauled away and disposed of properly.

Before selecting a professional carpet cleaner, find out how they plan to dispose of the wastewater. If they plan to use the street, gutter or storm drain for disposal because, *“we’ve always done it that way”* or *“our chemicals are nontoxic”*, don’t give them your business. A reputable business will have a proper plan for handling the waste they create.

For more information on preventing stormwater pollution visit: [www.vcstormwater.org](http://www.vcstormwater.org) or call \_\_\_\_\_

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