



Disposal of Carpet Cleaning Wastewater Guidance Document

Background The sewer system carries domestic and nondomestic wastewater to the treatment plant. Sinks, showers, bathtubs, toilets, certain floor drains, and other fixtures located *inside* a building are normally connected to the sewer system.

Carpet cleaning wastewater cannot be discharged into a storm drain, street, gutter, parking lot, or other outside area where it could run into the storm drain system. Detergents and pollutants contained in carpet cleaning wastewater can be harmful to aquatic life in the creeks where the storm drains lead to.

Following a few simple rules, carpet cleaners can discharge their wastewater into the sewer system.

Applicability This policy applies to users that discharge carpet cleaning wastewater to the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San) sewer system, including unincorporated Sacramento County; the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento and West Sacramento; and the communities of Courtland and Walnut Grove.

Legal authority Regional San’s Consolidated Ordinance, Sewer Use Chapter 2, Section 3. Regulations

Definitions *Wastewater:* The liquid and water-carried nondomestic industrial or domestic wastes from dwellings, commercial buildings, industrial facilities, and institutions, whether treated or untreated, which is contributed into or permitted to enter Regional San’s facilities. This term also includes ground, surface, and storm waters as may be present in the sewer system.

Policy Carpet cleaning wastewater can be discharged to the sewer system as long as the following conditions are met. The wastewater

- Has a pH greater than or equal to 5.0 and less than 12.5;
- Does not contain solid or viscous substances in amounts which settle or obstruct flow in the sewer system;
- Is not flammable; or
- Is not a hazardous waste as defined by the State of California.



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There are three options for the proper disposal of carpet cleaning wastewater to the sewer. These options are as follows:

1. Discharge collected wastewater to your client's sewer; or
2. Discharge collected wastewater to the sewer at your place of business; or
3. Discharge collected wastewater to a Regional San septage site. In order to discharge wastewater to a septage site, the hauler must first obtain a Liquid Waste Hauler permit from the Wastewater Source Control Section (WSCS). There is a charge for discharging to a septage station. **NOTE:** It is illegal to discharge hauled wastewater into a public sewer system at an unauthorized location.

Wastewater Disposal Tips

Here are a few "dos and don'ts" for disposing of carpet cleaning wastewater.

Do:

- Plan Ahead – figure out where you will be discharging wastewater before starting a job.
- Filter – to prevent clogging, filter wastewater before discharging to the sewer system.
- Use Non-Toxic Cleaners – if possible, avoid using solvent-based cleaners and spotting agents, especially chlorinated solvent cleaners.
- Ask for Help – if you have any questions, feel free to give Regional San a call.

Don't:

- Discharge Wastewater at Other Businesses – do not dispose of carpet cleaning wastewater at a carwash or other business without the owner's consent.
- Discharge to a Storm Drain – in no instance should wastewater from any operation be discharged into a storm drain or gutter. Storm drains are not connected to the treatment plant and flow directly to nearby creeks and rivers.

Contact

For more information on the Disposal of Carpet Cleaning Wastewater Guidance Document or how it applies specifically to your business, call the Wastewater Source Control Section at (916) 875-6470. Visit our website at www.regionalsan.com.
