

## WHY ARE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) IMPORTANT?

BMPs are enforceable procedures, based on regulations, that minimize pollutants that are discharged to the sewer system or the environment. BMPs are needed at both industrial and commercial facilities that can produce wastewater containing higher levels of pollutants than what are typically found in residential wastewater.

## REQUIREMENTS

### COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL CODES

- ◇ All commercial painting operations that send wastewater to the sewer system must ensure their wastewater complies with all local codes and requirements.

### APPLY FOR A PERMIT IF NEEDED

- ◇ Carpet cleaners must apply for a permit if they discharge over 25,000 gallons a day.

## CONTACT US



City of Spokane  
(509) 625-4600



Spokane County  
(509) 477-7177



Airway Heights  
(509) 443-5667

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### HAZARDOUS WASTE HANDLING:

Department of Ecology  
(509) 329-3400  
[www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov)

Spokane Regional Health District  
(509) 324-1560 ext. 3  
[www.srhd.org](http://www.srhd.org)

For hazardous spills or any other  
emergencies, call 911

April 17, 2025

## CARPET CLEANING OPERATIONS

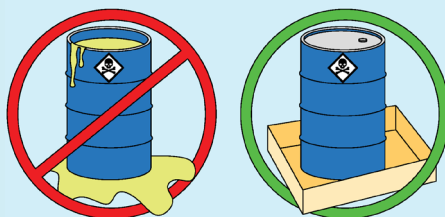


## COMMERCIAL WASTEWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

## CARPET CLEANING BMPS

- ◇ Determine whether each waste material is hazardous using the guidelines in WAC 173-303-9903 and WAC 173-303-9904.
- ◇ Filter or settle solids from wastewater prior to discharge, removed solids can be disposed of as solid waste.
- ◇ Vacuum before cleaning to minimize the amount of debris in the wastewater.
- ◇ Develop a written spill response plan, keep spill clean-up materials on site, immediately clean up any spills, train employees on clean up procedures, and replace leaking containers.
- ◇ Storage and waste containers should have clear labels indicating their contents.
- ◇ Cool wastewater to less than 130° Fahrenheit (34° Celsius) before discharge in the Spokane County service area and to less than 140° F (40° C) in the City of Spokane and Airway Heights service areas.

- ◇ Check pH of wastewater and adjust before discharge. pH of wastewater entering sewers serviced by Spokane County must be between 5.0 and 11.0 and between 5.0 and 12.0 in the City of Spokane and Airway Heights service areas.
- ◇ Never use sinks as secondary containment or for chemical storage or transfer.
- ◇ Keep containers closed except when adding or removing materials.
- ◇ Install secondary containment for all liquid storage capable of containing 110% of the largest possible spill.



- ◇ Arrange with the client to allow discharge into a toilet, utility sink, or sewer cleanout pipe on the premises.
- ◇ If disposal with the client is not possible, transport the wastewater off-site and discharge at an authorized sewer discharge point.
- ◇ Manhole covers and storm drains must not be opened or accessed by carpet cleaners to dispose of wastewater.

## POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

These tips are not enforceable, but will help your business reduce its impact on the environment.

- » Develop and follow a written Environmental Management Plan, periodically inspecting and repairing equipment.
- » Use low-phosphate products when they are available.
- » Use environmentally friendly cleaning products if possible.
- » Where possible, invest in cleaning equipment and cleaning practices that minimize water use.
- » Use spigots, pumps, and funnels when pouring solvents and cleaners.

