

## Before You Clean

Before performing carpet cleaning operations, here are some BMPs to follow to ensure that you are protecting our waterways:

**1. Become a BASMAA certified mobile cleaner:** Acquire the online training from the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) for mobile surface cleaning. This program will train you on how to clean different surface areas in an environmentally acceptable way. Get certified at [www.basmaa.org](http://www.basmaa.org).

**2. Acquire a Wastewater Permit:** Contact the local sanitary district or wastewater treatment facility and acquire any required permits to discharge your wash water. Also, obtain permission to discharge to the property owner's sanitary sewer plumbing.

**3. Use "Dry Cleanup" first:** Vacuum debris off carpets.

**4. Collect wash water:** Cover the storm drains to keep wash water from entering—and divert wash water to the sanitary sewer system if permitted to do so. Small amounts may be diverted to landscaped areas, if appropriate.

## Sanitary Districts and Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Marin

Almonte Sanitary District .....	388-8775
Bolinas Co, Public Utility District .....	868-1224
Central Marin Sanitation Agency.....	459-1455
City of Belvedere .....	435-3838
City of Mill Valley Public Works .....	388-4033
City of Sausalito .....	332-0240
County Sewer Maintenance District .....	473-6524
Murray Park-Kentfield, San Quentin Village	
Homestead Sanitary District #1 .....	388-4796
Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District .....	472-1734
Lucas Valley, Marinwood, Northgate, Portola Gardens, San Rafael Meadows, Santa Venetia, Terra Linda	
Novato Sanitary District .....	892-1694
Bahia, Bel Marin Keys, Hamilton, Ignacio, Novato	
North Marin Water District .....	897-4133
Richardson Bay Sanitary District .....	388-1345
Del Mar Estates, Hawthorn Terrace, Strawberry	
Sanitary District #1 .....	461-1122
Fairfax, Greenbrae, Kentfield, Kent Woodlands, Larkspur, Ross, San Anselmo, Sleepy Hollow	
Sanitary District #2 .....	927-5057
Corte Madera	
Sanitary District # 5 .....	435-1501
Tiburon	
San Rafael Sanitary District.....	454-4001
Sausalito-Marin City Sanitary District .....	332-0244
Seafirth .....	454-8084
Sewerage Agency of So Marin.....	388-2402
Tamalpais Community Services Dist.....	388-6393
Kay Park, Tam Valley, Tam Woods	

MCSTOPPP would like to thank the Contra Costa Clean Water Program for allowing us to modify their brochure

## Remember...



**Caring for our  
Creeks is like Caring  
for our Carpets!**

**After all—they both  
need to be kept clean!**



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[mcstoppp@marincounty.org](mailto:mcstoppp@marincounty.org)

## WASH WATER DISPOSAL PRACTICES FOR: CARPET CLEANERS



*Specialist using a professional vacuum system.*

### It is illegal to allow anything—other than rain water—to enter a storm drain!

In addition, carpet cleaners (and others) are prohibited from discharging any waste or wastewater into a sanitary sewer if it:

- has a pH lower than 5.0
- contains solid or viscous substances in amounts which obstruct flow in the sewers
- is flammable
- is a hazardous waste as defined by the State
- exceeds more than 500 gallons per site

### How do Storm Drains and Sanitary Sewer Systems Differ?

In Marin, the storm drain system transports rain-water to local creeks, the bay, and to the ocean. This system was created to prevent flooding of homes and communities. All water and materials that enter the storm drain system flow to local creeks, etc. **untreated**. If you see an outdoor drain and are unsure of its use, assume it's a storm drain and don't discharge wash water into it

The sanitary sewer is a plumbed system that transports water from homes and buildings to a wastewater treatment facility where dirty water and sewage is treated before being released back into the environment.

### Do Wastewater Treatment Facilities Remove All Pollutants?

No! The treatment plants are designed to manage most organic materials—not toxic pollutants. Some pollutants—like motor oil and pesticides—pass right by the system and enter receiving waters (e.g. the Bay) without being treated. Pollutants can damage biological treatment processes.

### Where Can You Dispose of Wash Water?

All carpet cleaners who generate wash water should perform cleaning operations based on established best management practices (BMPs). With permission from the sanitary district and the property owner, wash water from carpet cleaners can be discharged into a:

1. Floor, Utility or Mop Sink,
2. Toilet, or
3. Drain connected to the sanitary sewer system.

**Never discharge wash water into streets, gutters, parking lots, storm drains, or in “manholes”.**



*A professional vacuum system collecting wash water*

### Are Discharge Permits Necessary?

Carpet cleaners need to contact the local sanitary district (see back page) to assess whether or not a discharge permit is needed.

All wash water discharged to a sanitary system must:

- Meet the discharge requirements of the local sanitary sewer district or wastewater treatment facility. Certain cleaning products, such as spot removers, may contain toxic organic compounds and should be used very sparingly.
- Not contain hazardous materials.

### Are “Nontoxic” and “Biodegradable” Products Safe to Use?

Cleaning products labeled “nontoxic” and “biodegradable” can still harm wildlife if they enter a **storm drain system**.

Fish, for example, cannot distinguish between regular soap or biodegradable soap! But, in **the sanitary sewer system**, biodegradable products are preferred over toxic cleaners

### If you See Discharges to a Creek or Storm Drain, Call:

(Most cities and towns are open Monday—Thursday)

<b>Belvedere</b>	435-3838
<b>County Unincorporated</b>	473-6528
<b>Corte Madera</b>	927-5057
<b>Fairfax</b>	453-1584
<b>Larkspur</b>	927-5017
<b>Mill Valley</b>	388-4033
<b>Novato</b>	899-8246
<b>Ross</b>	453-1453 ext 163
<b>San Anselmo</b>	258-4600
<b>San Rafael</b>	485-3355
<b>Sausalito</b>	289-4100 ext 106
<b>Tiburon</b>	435-7399

After hours, report illegal discharges to the County Sheriff's non-emergency hotline at 473-7233. Call 911 if the discharge poses an immediate threat.