

# Water Watch



## Water Quality Guidelines for Carpet Cleaning Activities

Whether done by yourself or by a professional carpet cleaner, there are some water quality issues that should be considered when getting your carpet cleaned. When using water and detergents to clean carpets, residents and professional carpet cleaners should follow these guidelines in order to prevent waste or wash-water from entering the storm drains where it flows untreated to sumps, canals and ultimately to the Provo River and Utah Lake.

These guidelines apply even if the cleaning products are labeled "nontoxic" or "biodegradable". Although these products may be less harmful to the environment, they can still have harmful effects if they enter the storm drain untreated.

### Filtering Wastewater

Both residents and professional carpet cleaners should be sure to filter the wash-water from carpet cleaning before discharging it to the sanitary sewer since fibers and other debris in the wastewater can clog pipes. The filtered material can be disposed of in the garbage, provided that the carpet was not contaminated with hazardous materials, which cannot be discharged to the sanitary sewer.

### Residential Carpet Cleaners

Wash-water from carpet cleaning must be discharged into a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system within your residence. The wash-water should never be disposed of in a street, gutter, parking lot or storm drain.

When hiring professional carpet cleaners ask your contractor where they discharge carpet cleaning wash-water. Check with the contractor to ensure the spent cleaning wash-water tank is emptied into a utility sink or other indoor sewer connection.

If you contract with a carpet cleaner regularly, arrange an appropriate location for the contractor to discharge cleaning wash-water such as a utility sink, toilet, or sewer cleanout.

### Professional Carpet Cleaner Users

Wash-water from carpet cleaning must be discharged into a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system - never to a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain. The spent cleaning fluid can be disposed of in a utility sink or other indoor sewer con-

nection at your home base. Or, contact the nearest storm water program agency for additional disposal options.

### Preventing Releases to the Storm Drain

**Q:** Can any liquids, solids or spilled materials from carpet cleaning activities be discharged to the storm drain?

**A:** No. Carpet cleaning wash-water or waste may not be discharged to the storm drain.

Storm drains are designed only to handle storm water runoff.

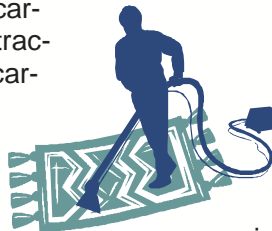
**Q:** Does the carpet cleaner have the equipment, material and personnel to handle a spill or discharge (such as a detergent spill)?

**A:** Carpet cleaners should have what they need to handle most spills or discharges.

**Q:** Is it safe for me to clean up spills and discharges?

**A:** Know about the cleaning products in advance, read the labels and make sure you have what is

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If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it!

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required to clean up a small spill before you begin cleaning.

**Q:** When do I begin to clean up spills and discharges?

**A:** Act immediately, using known and safe procedures, and try to contain the spilled material on your property. Remember to protect the storm drain.

**Q:** Do I need to report spills or discharges?

**A:** Communicate the spill to your supervisor as soon as possible. Report all spills and discharges that are not contained on site to the number above or call police dispatch at 229-7070 after hours.

Before you allow anything to go into the gutter or storm drain, stop and think. Storm drains do not go to the sewer; they flow directly into sumps, channels and creeks, through wetlands and go to our groundwater, the Provo River and Utah Lake. Remember, if you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it.

Source: "Water Quality Guidelines for Carpet Cleaning Activities" by Orange County Stormwater Program, 2002.

## Water Conservation in Orem in 2005

As we watch the colors change and the temperatures drop, the advertisements hint at Halloween and the hunters become invisible due to their camouflage clothing. We here at the City of Orem Water Section heave a sigh of relief for making it through another hectic summer of development, construction, and drought.

This spring began with reports of abundant water in the snow pack, but that changed dramatically with early hot weather and limited precipitation. By the end of April it was evident that we were in for another year of careful monitoring to survive the summer demands.

Prior planning and foresight provided options that made the situation less daunting. One major improvement to our system was the completion of the new well at Scera Park. This well produced over 5 million gallons

on its peak August day!

The graph below shows the summer water use history for the last five years. This truly reflects that the community spirit in Orem is alive and well. This represents the months of May through August.

### What is in our future?

Mitigating efforts currently being planned:

?? A new water storage facility to be built in conjunction with Central Utah Water Conservancy District in northeast Orem.

?? Waterline replacement, focused on old, leaking waterlines in high profile roadways.

?? Continued water right acquisition through Orem Metro Water.

?? Continued commitment from Orem's Water Section to maintain a quality water system.



**Total Water Usage in Orem in Acre Feet  
May through August 1999-2004**

