

# BG-60 Mobile Cleaning – Carpets & Upholstery

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Photo Credit: Geoff Brosseau

## Description

This category includes businesses that both conduct their own mobile cleaning activities and those that are hired as contractors to conduct these activities. Mobile cleaning differs from other cleaning activities in that the cleaning is not conducted in a dedicated, fixed location with a wastewater capture and treatment system connected to the sanitary sewer system. This category includes cleaning of carpets and upholstery. Information specific to: other amenities, transportation-related cleaning, food service business-related cleaning, or surface cleaning is provided in other guide sheets.

## Pollutant Sources

The following are sources of pollutants:

- Cleaning chemicals
- Carpet fibers

Pollutants can include:

- Toxic organic compounds

## Approach

Never discharge wash water or wastewater from these activities to the driveway, street, gutter, or near a storm drain.

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## Source Control BMPs

The best management practices are listed by activity or area in the table below.

<b>Disposal of Wastewater</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ Check the local municipal sewer agency or wastewater authority's requirements for special discharge requirements.</li><li>□ Cleaning waste must be discharged to a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system – never to the driveway, a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain. Either:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Collect the spent cleaning fluid tank and transport it service provider's facility and properly dispose in a utility sink or other connection to the sanitary sewer</li></ul></li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Arrange with the customer to discharge into a toilet or utility sink on the residential or commercial location.</li></ul>
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These guidelines apply even to cleaning products labeled “nontoxic” and “biodegradable.” “Nontoxic” means the product is not toxic to the user. “Biodegradable” means the product will eventually break down. Such products can harm wildlife if they enter a storm drain.

## Treatment Control BMPs

The use of self-contained, mobile wastewater collection/treatment units may be appropriate and cost-effective for some mobile cleaning activities.

## References

Orange County Stormwater Program. Industrial/Commercial Business Activities Best Management Practices. Fact Sheet IC24 Disposal of Wastewater Generated by Mobile Businesses & Outdoor Activities. Available on-line at:  
<http://ocwatersheds.com/civicax/filebank/blobload.aspx?BlobID=10201>.

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[http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/watershedpdf/bmp\\_2009\\_carpet+drapery.pdf](http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/watershedpdf/bmp_2009_carpet+drapery.pdf).

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<http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Pretreatment/BMP-CarpetCleaning-2012.pdf>.

Town of Truckee, 2009. *Stormwater Pollution Prevention for the Mobile Cleaner Industry*. Available on-line at: <http://www.townoftruckee.com/home/showdocument?id=5350>.