



Mobile Carpet Cleaner Reference Guide

The following reference material is to be used by the mobile carpet cleaner as a guide to facilitate compliance under the current Davidson County, **Metro Water Services (MWS) environmental regulations**. However, in order to insure compliance within Metro Nashville/Davidson County, the mobile carpet cleaner must be aware of *all* pertinent Metro, State, and Federal regulations and not simply those contained within this document.

When operating a mobile carpet cleaning operation, all individuals involved must first understand that the waste wash water produced by the cleaning of carpets is harmful to the environment and **must be disposed of in a drain which routes to a MWS sanitary waste treatment plant. The storm drains and ditches in Metro Davidson County do not route water to the MWS sanitary waste treatment plant!** Instead, the storm drains and ditches within Davidson County are part of Metro's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). This MS4 includes all storm drains, roads, ditches, culverts, or parking lots that are designed to route **clean/unpolluted stormwater**, safely into the streams of Metro Nashville/Davidson County.

The NPDES division of MWS has the specific task of monitoring all discharges into this MS4 for the purpose of maintaining the water quality of the streams within Davidson County. If disposed of improperly into the MS4 or stream, **the constituents of the mobile carpet cleaner's wastewater would damage this stream and the aquatic life within it.** Nearly all discharges into the MS4 and streams (including those of the mobile carpet washer) are deemed "Illicit Discharges" and are illegal in Davidson County under Metro Code of Laws (Metro Code) §§ 15.64.205. If you have questions, contact the MWS NPDES office at (615) 880-2420.

As stated previously, **the dumping of carpet cleaning waste wash water down a drain which routes to a MWS sanitary treatment plant is the proper method of disposal for the mobile carpet washer.** Most internal drains including floor drains, sinks, and toilets route waste directly to the sanitary treatment plant. By dumping this waste material down a sanitary drain, we are insured that this wastewater will be properly treated at a treatment plant and not have any detrimental effects on the environment. All discharges into sanitary lines/drainage that route to a treatment plant are monitored by the Industrial Compliance Section of MWS and are regulated under Metro Code of Laws (Metro Code) §§15.60 "Industrial Waste Discharges". If you have questions, contact the MWS Industrial Compliance Office at (615) 862-4590.

Thank you very much for recognizing the importance of our streams as a valuable natural resource and your help in the protection and improvement of the streams within Metro Nashville/Davidson County.

This publication is a public service of:
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Metro Water Services is in the process of complying with all appropriate Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines. For additional information contact Joseph A. Estes, Sr., 1600 2nd Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208-2206; telephone 615-862-4862.