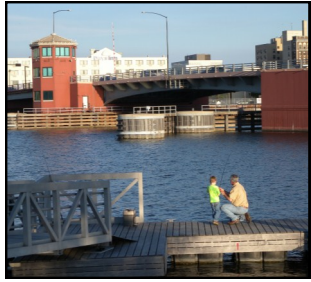


You can help protect Northeast Wisconsin waters!



Northeast Wisconsin residents rely on clean water for recreation, business, health & safety. Area wildlife depends on clean water for habitat and food.



When it rains, many of the pollutants that lurk on our streets, sidewalks, parking lots and gutters wash down storm drains and into the nearest body of water.

Unfortunately, storm drains do not filter water or debris, nor are they connected to the sanitary sewer system. Any pollutant that flows into a storm drain ends up in our local lakes and rivers. Urban runoff pollutants come from many different sources, such as leaking cars, pet waste, dirt and sediments, and litter.



The good news is that urban runoff pollution is preventable! As Northeast Wisconsin residents and business owners, we simply need to work together and change a few habits to benefit our health, our families and our community. Remember every bit of pollution hurts.



*For more information,
contact your local municipality*

Contacts for more information

To report an illegal discharge of pollutants into a storm drain contact:

Your local community's
storm water department

If you would like more information about what you can do to impact water quality in Northeast Wisconsin visit:

RenewOurWaters.org

Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium
P.O. Box 1861
Appleton, Wisconsin 54912
Phone: 920-858-4246

Carpet Cleaning



*Best Management Practices to
keep our waterways clean!*

**Renew
Our Waters**

Every choice counts.

Why is wastewater from carpet cleaning operations a concern?



Wastewater from carpet cleaning may contain dirt, soap, oil, grease, solvents, and other toxic chemicals. These common pollutants can enter our waterways and harm the animals and plants that live there.

How & where you dispose of carpet cleaning wastewater matters.

Imagine swimming in a stew of carpet cleaning wastewater - it's not a pretty picture. But this is exactly what can happen if your carpet cleaning wastewater enters a storm drain.

Water that goes into storm drains and ditches is not treated and goes directly to our lakes, rivers and creeks. Carpet cleaning businesses must implement appropriate best management practices (BMPs) to prevent these pollutants from entering storm drains or ditches.

Is your business part of the problem or part of the solution?



Knowing your role can help protect Northeast Wisconsin waters, save you money in fines, and also prevent negative publicity about your business.

All businesses have a role in keeping our lakes, rivers, streams and ground waters clean. Our health and economy depend on it.

Best Management Practices help protect the environment

How? It's Easy. Be smart! Plan ahead.

You can take simple steps to clean carpet work without polluting the environment.

- * Make sure your equipment is well serviced and that all filters are operating properly. Maintain the tanks, hoses, and fittings to prevent wastewater leaks.
- * Where possible, invest in cleaning equipment and cleaning practices that minimize water use.
- * Train your operators and employees on appropriate carpet cleaning best management practices, as well as pollution prevention and wastewater discharge requirements.



* Dispose of wastewater properly.

Check with your clients when booking the job.

Is this location on sewer or septic system?



Areas on a sewer system

Arrange with the client to allow you to discharge into the toilet or utility sink on the premises. If this is not possible, plan to transport the wastewater off-site and dispose of it properly at an authorized sewage discharge point.

Areas on Septic Systems

At a location with a septic system, plan to store wastewater and residues in a collection tank and transport them to an authorized sewage discharge point for proper disposal.

Identify the wastewater disposal option that will be used and ensure that you meet all the requirements to do so.

Contact your local sewer authority for information about requirements.

Never dispose of carpet cleaning wastewater into a septic system. The chemicals may cause the system to fail.

- * **Assess the site:** Before starting the job, do a quick check of the location of stormwater drains and ensure that they are protected from any runoff or spills.

- * **Vacuum before cleaning:** This minimizes the amount of debris in the wastewater.

- * **Follow instructions:** Always use the recommended type and quantity of chemicals (including water-based, biodegradable, and low-phosphate products, where available) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Remember, just because a product is biodegradable doesn't mean it can be discharged to a storm drain. Store and handle detergents and chemicals in a contained area where any spill will not enter the storm drain.

- * **Filter all wastewater** before discharging into the sewer system, since fibers and other debris in the wastewater can clog pipes. The filtered materials may be disposed of in the garbage, unless the waste is contaminated. Waste contaminated with hazardous pollutants must comply with hazardous materials disposal requirements.

