

BMPs for Carpet Cleaning

- Do not discharge wash water from carpet cleaning activities into the street, gutter, driveway, parking lot, creek, or storm drain.
- Options for proper disposal of wastewater
 - Option A (Preferred): Zero discharge or closed-loop recycled water.
 - Option B: Take filtered* wash water for disposal in the sanitary sewer at a business location that has a solids separator.
 - If you cannot comply with Option A or B and the volume is less than 50 gallons: dispose of filtered wash water in a utility sink, toilet, or other drain (with property owner permission). Be careful not to discharge heavy debris, hazardous materials, or anything that can clog plumbing. Discharge must be limited to 50 gallons per customer visit.
- Maintain logs for waste water disposal.



**The filtered material can be disposed of in the garbage, provided that the carpet was not contaminated with hazardous materials.*

The **storm drain system** was built to prevent flooding in urban areas by collecting and transporting rain. Anything that flows or is discharged into storm drains and roads often goes directly into local creeks without any treatment.



Article 1 of Chapter 77 of The Alachua County Water Quality Standards and Management Practices Code prohibits non-storm water discharges into stormwater management systems, which includes most roads.

Wash water is not allowed in the storm drain system. Chemicals, dirt, and other materials carried by wash water into storm drains can harm wildlife and pollute local water.

Following the Best Management Practices (BMPs) outlined here will ensure compliance and protect our water in Alachua County.



Help Prevent Water Pollution

BMP

Best Management Practices for Mobile Businesses

In this guide: Best Management Practices (BMPs) for car wash and detailing, power washing, and carpet cleaning to protect our water resources, prevent pollution and avoid code violations and fines.



BMPs for Carwash & Detailing

- **Vacuum or shake floor mats into a trash can and keep wash areas free of debris.**
- **Wash cars over a permeable surface (gravel, grass, or loose soil)** to allow water to soak into the ground and filter through plants and soil.
- **Contain your wash water and prevent any flow to the storm drain.** Use sand bags, straw wattles, or drain mats to protect storm drains. Use a containment mat, boom, or other device to collect the wash water for proper disposal when the job is complete (see below).
- **Minimize water consumption.** Use a sprayer with automatic shut-off nozzles. Use buckets for soaping sponges rather than adding soap directly to them. Recycle rinse water as wash water.
- **Use biodegradable products and limit the use of detergents and cleaners.** Use phosphate-free, water-based products when available. Even biodegradable products can impact our waterways, so they are not permitted to enter the storm drain system. Do not use wheel and rim cleaners.



BMPs for Power Washing

- **Walk and survey** the site where cleaning will occur prior to beginning work.
- **Identify** areas where water can be directed into the landscape and where drainage to streets/storm drains is unavoidable.
- **Protect** storm drains by using sand bags, plugs, rubber mats, or temporary berms to contain wash water and keep it from entering storm drains.
- **Use only water** when effective for the job. If you must use cleaning products, use as directed on their labels. Even biodegradable products impact our waterways and are not allowed to enter the storm drain system.
- **Direct wash water into grassy areas** (when no toxic chemicals are used and with permission from the landowner).
- **Choose** an option from the **Proper disposal of wash water** section in this brochure before work begins.



It's the LAW! Car wash/detailers, power washers, and carpet cleaners must prevent all wash water and materials used from entering the storm drain system. Follow the BMPs in this guide to maintain compliance and avoid fines.



Proper disposal of wash water to avoid code violations:

You must have permission from property owners for on-site disposal.

Option 1- Vegetated Area

Direct wash water to a vegetated area so it can soak into the ground. Wash water must completely soak in with no residue. Berms and/or sand bags may be needed to properly contain the wash water on site.

Option 2- Sanitary Sewer (not an option if connected to a septic system)

Prior to discharge into the sanitary sewer system, verify with your utility if there are restrictions or regulations regarding wash water disposal. Where sanitary sewer disposal is available, wash water can be collected using a "wet-vac" and discharged into a sink (or toilet if small quantity) that is connected to the sanitary sewer. Be careful not to discharge heavy debris, **hazardous materials** or substances that may clog sinks or toilets. Alternatively, wash water can be pumped directly into a sewer clean out. Wash water may contain chemicals that can harm septic systems, so discharge into a septic tank is not recommended.

Hazardous materials

are any items which can pose harm to our soil, water, and air if not properly disposed.

Option 3- Off-site disposal

Take wash water off site for proper disposal in the sanitary sewer system at your home or business location.

For more information, call the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department at 352-264-6800