



## **Mobile Cleaners**



### **Who are Mobile Cleaners?**

Businesses and contractors that perform cleaning in a variety of locations, including:

Carpet Cleaning  
Upholstery Cleaning  
Mobile Automobile Washing and Detailing  
Auto dealer and rental car inventory vehicle washing



### **Protecting Creeks, Rivers and the Ocean While Cleaning**

Never discharge wash water or wastewater from these activities to the street, gutter, or near a storm drain. This includes water containing cleaning products labeled “nontoxic” and biodegradable.” “Nontoxic” means the product is not toxic to the user. “Biodegradable” means the product will eventually break down. It is important to realize that these products can still harm wildlife if they enter a storm drain.

- Check the local wastewater authority’s requirements for discharge.
- Wastewater from mobile cleaning must be captured and discharged to a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system – never to a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain.
- If wash water will enter the street, securely block all nearby storm drains and vacuum up wash water.
- Empty spent cleaning fluid tanks into a utility sink or other indoor sewer connection at the service provider’s home base
- Arrange with the customer to discharge into a toilet or utility sink on their premises.
- As an alternative, clean water can be discharged to landscaping to allow it to percolate into the soil.
- A second alternative is use of a self-contained, mobile wastewater collection/treatment units to treat wastewater before discharge into the storm drain. This can be appropriate and cost-effective for some types of mobile cleaning activities.
- Carpet cleaning wastewater must be filtered before discharge into the sanitary sewer or onto landscaping. Fibers and other debris in the wastewater can clog pipes and cause an unsightly mess on the ground. Material filtered out of the water can be disposed of in the garbage, as long as it is not contaminated with hazardous pollutants.