

Stormwater Health & Carpet Cleaners

Drinking water, agriculture, fishing and recreation depend on a healthy stormwater system.

You can help!

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff is precipitation that is not absorbed into the ground. It travels over impermeable surfaces like roads, rooftops, parking lots and other paved surfaces. As it moves, it picks up particles, debris, chemicals and pollutants.

Runoff enters the storm drain system and travels to the nearest water source *untreated* – the Yampa River. Stormwater pollution has the potential to impact water quality, compromising water resources.



Did you know your carpet cleaning business has a part to play in protecting the health of the Yampa River?

Correct handling and disposal of the chemicals and wastewater used for commercial steam cleaning can protect local waterways and stormwater health. Learn the easy steps you can take!



What can my business do to protect stormwater health?

- Identify and label all toxic and chemical substances and be sure to contain and cover waste stockpiles.
- Train employees about the toxic chemicals they may be working with, and their proper clean-up and spill response.
- Keep up on maintenance of cleaning equipment (such as tanks, hoses and fittings) to prevent wastewater leaks.
- Securely store all materials in vehicles during transportation to prevent spills. And, take precautions when receiving bulk liquid deliveries during loading and unloading.
- Immediately clean spills at loading and unloading areas by using a spill kit for hazardous chemicals or by wiping up with soapy water and disposing of in the sink.
- Be careful with rinse water, and wash water discharges—never dump soapy water, or water containing chemicals down a storm drain. Dispose of contaminated water in a sink or toilet where it will be treated at a wastewater treatment plant.
- Filter carpet cleaning wastewater before discharging it to the sewer system—fibers and other debris in the wastewater can clog pipes.



What happens if my business pollutes the stormwater system?

Did you know it is **illegal** to make improper discharges in a storm drain system?

According to the City of Steamboat Springs Municipal Code:

“...a person convicted of a violation of this Code shall be punished by a **fine** not exceeding nine hundred ninety-nine dollars (\$999.00) or **imprisonment** for a term not exceeding one hundred eighty (180) days, or any **combination** thereof...”

“See Something, Say Something”

If you suspect or observe an inadvertent discharge, or an illicit discharge, always let the proper authorities know.

Contact the City of Steamboat Springs:

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