



Stormwater Best Management Practices

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Help protect our valley's water supply

A Best Management Practice (BMP) is defined as any program, process, location criteria, operating method, measure or device which controls, prevents, removes or reduces pollution.



Carpet cleaning is widely practiced in homes and commercial premises to prolong the life of carpets and to ensure that living and working areas are hygienic. But did you know that some carpet cleaning agents are directly toxic to plants and/or animal life? Other residues from carpet cleaning may themselves be toxic under certain circumstances.

The wastewater by-product from carpet cleaning activities can damage the environment if dumped onto streets or into storm drains where it eventually makes its way to Lake Mead. This includes cleaning products that are labeled "non-toxic" and "biodegradable". These cleaning chemicals can act as nutrients and promote excessive algae growth. That is why the wastewater

generated from carpet and upholstery cleaning must be properly managed and disposed of by the service provider. Acceptable methods include: discharging into a toilet, tub, sink or sewer cleanout at the client's residence; or through a drain that passes through an approved sanitary sewer pre-treatment device such as a sand/oil separator at the client's or service provider's business. Public manhole lids should not be removed to dispose of the wastewater.

The quality of Southern Nevada's water is important to the future of our community. In addition to having enough water for our communities, it is essential that the water be of good quality to support swimming, fishing, drinking, irrigating, and other uses. While we've made a lot of progress in cleaning up specific sources of pollutants, everyday activities in our community continue to affect water quality. In the Las Vegas Valley, rainwater that falls onto streets, driveways, lawns, etc., is channeled into the storm drain and flows untreated to Lake Mead, the Las Vegas Valley's primary source of drinking water. As this water moves across the Valley, it carries with it pollutants from our business activities, our vehicles, and many other activities.

Although we live in a desert, it doesn't mean we don't get rain. In fact, rainfall in Southern Nevada doesn't just come in gentle drizzles with no runoff. Rainfall in our area often comes during brief but intense storms, with significant amounts of rainfall occurring in a short time frame. Desert soils also have poor water infiltration rates, meaning they don't readily absorb water, so that much of the water from a storm may move as surface runoff, collecting pollutants as it flows.



Each resident of the Las Vegas Valley can help protect the quality of Lake Mead, the Valley's main source of drinking water, by being aware of these simple fixes:

- Use pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals sparingly.
- Repair auto and equipment leaks.
- Recycle or properly dispose of hazardous waste, used auto fluids (antifreeze, oil, etc.), batteries, paint, chemicals, etc.
- Chemical and liquid containers stored outside should be properly labeled, sealed and stored in secondary containment or approved equal.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash vehicles at a location that drains to sanitary sewer.
- Use dry cleanup methods rather than hosing down areas.
- Maintain spill kits at appropriate locations and train employees on their proper use.
- Keep outside areas clean and orderly.



Help protect our Valley's water supply

Visit our website:

ClarkCountyNV.gov/water-quality

Contact us at (702) 668-8674 or e-mail

waterquality@cleanwaterteam.com

