Cleaning Your Home Carpets

If you clean your own carpets, rugs or upholstery, follow the following steps:

1. **Remove the wastewater collection container from the carpet cleaner following the manufacturer's instructions.**

2. **Separate the liquid wastewater from the solid waste particles in the wastewater using a strainer.** Solid waste particles, such as hair, can clog drains. Use a bucket to collect the liquid as it goes through the strainer.

3. **Dispose of the wastewater collected in the bucket in the toilet, sink or a floor drain. These drains lead to the wastewater treatment plant, which filters the wastewater to remove the chemicals.**

4. **Solid waste particles can go into the trash.**

5. **Rinse the bucket, strainer and wastewater collection container using clean water. Dispose of this water in the same manner you disposed of the wastewater.**

**Please Note**

Never dump water that contains carpet cleaning chemicals by pouring it on the ground or into a storm drain. It must be discharges to the sanitary sewer. This also applies to having your carpets, rugs or upholstery cleaned by a carpet cleaning business. Make sure your carpet cleaner both knows and follows appropriate practices. Ask your cleaner how he or she intends to dispose of waste.

**Telephone Contacts**

707-543-4200  Storm water and the storm drain system

707-565-3375  Questions on hazardous materials disposal and recycling www.recyclenow.org

707-543-3800  If spilled material reaches the storm drain system

707-528-5151 or call 911  If spilled material is hazardous