

MOBILE CARPET CLEANERS

Mobile carpet cleaners can help prevent pollutants entering our environment by complying with their general environmental duty.

BENEFITS FOR YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS

Improve the public image of your business and minimise/ remove the risk of environmental fines and prosecutions by complying with the *Environment Protection Act 1997* (the Act) and the Environment Protection Regulation 2005.

Carpet cleaning activities can potentially pollute the environment. Think about work practices and how they might impact on land, water and air.

WATER

Stormwater drains empty into our creeks, lakes and rivers without treatment. All water that enters the stormwater system will affect the water quality downstream. The Act aims to protect our aquatic environments by keeping stormwater as clean as possible.

AIR

The Act also aims to ensure that air quality in the ACT meets national standards to minimise environmental harm from local emission of dust, fumes and other airborne pollutants.

NOISE

Certain activities can generate levels of noise ranging from being a nuisance to actually damaging people's health. The Act aims to protect people from undue noise whilst enabling them to carry out their business and social activities. Noise levels and operating times must be followed. Consider the noise generated from your activity and its impact on the surrounding community.

Location	Monday to Saturday	Sunday and Public Holidays
Residential areas	7am to 8pm	8am to 8pm
Non-residential areas	7am to 10pm	8am to 10pm

LAND

Certain activities can lead to contamination of the land. All practical measures should be employed to prevent contamination of the land from hazardous substances.

PLAN AHEAD

- > Educate your staff/franchisees on proper wastewater disposal methods. Ensure all staff/franchisees can distinguish the difference between the sewerage
- > and stormwater system inlets and are aware of their
- > environmental responsibilities.
- > Check that access to the sewer is available for disposal of wastewater. Water from cleaning should be directed to the sewer through the client's outside gully trap or laundry (with ACTEW Water approval). Contact ACTEW Water on 13 14 93 for more information.
- > Ensure the wastewater is filtered to meet ACTEW Water specifications.
- > If a sewer inlet is not available, wastewater may be directed to the client's garden (if the client approves) or to a container on your mobile vehicle so you can dispose of it to sewer elsewhere. Do not allow runoff to leave your client's property or enter the stormwater system.

MOBILE CARPET CLEANERS

- > Floors treated with pesticides should not be cleaned for at least four weeks following the pesticide application.
- > Use water based, biodegradable products where available. These products are not allowed to enter the stormwater system.
- > Keep your equipment maintained to minimise the risk of leaks.
- > Ensure all staff/franchisees have a plan to deal with spills and a spill kit in the vehicle at all times. Do not hose spills into the stormwater system. In the event of a spill, ensure that the spill kit is used and that contaminated material is disposed of appropriately. Replace items in the spill kit that are used.

ON THE JOB

- > Always use the recommended type and quantity of chemicals.
- > The stormwater is for rain water only. No products are allowed to enter the stormwater system, including environmentally friendly products.
- > Prevent wastewater, including rinse water, from entering the stormwater system. Identify stormwater system entry points at each job and ensure your wastewater cannot flow into them – protect with bunds if needed.
- > Store and handle detergents and chemicals in a bunded (or contained) area where spills are not able to enter the stormwater system.
- > Rinse containers into your cleaning equipment to use the very last of detergent.
- > Control powders and airborne sprays so they cannot land on surfaces where rain will wash them into the stormwater system.
- > Ensure work is carried out during approved hours and locate noisy machinery away from nearby residents.

CLEANING UP

- > Recycle detergent and chemical containers.
- > Always wash or clean out equipment and filters into a sink or container, or onto grass where water can soak in.
- > Dispose of solid waste from filters and cleaning operations into the general garbage.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

If a spill of chemical or wastewater enters the stormwater system, stop the source, contain it and clean it up. If the spill is too large to handle on your own or you don't have the appropriate clean up materials, contact the fire brigade as soon as possible. If a pollution incident does occur, you must report the incident to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) immediately by calling Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

Under the Act it is an offence for a person to allow contaminated water to enter the stormwater system. Penalties can range from \$100 on-the-spot fines to court fines of up to \$50,000, six months in jail and a criminal record.

In the case of excessive noise a complaint may be lodged with the EPA. A complaint regarding noise pollution will be considered by the EPA, only if it is made by a person affected by the noise. The EPA will investigate the problem and a warning letter, on the spot fine, or depending on the circumstances, an environment protection order may be issued. If the noise continues to be a problem, it is a serious offence and could lead to prosecution in court.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Environment Protection Authority by calling Access Canberra on 13 22 81.
Go to www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au for more information on business and industry.

Further Information | Phone: Access Canberra on 13 22 81 | Email: environment.protection@act.gov.au | Web: www.act.gov.au/accesscbr

Note: This guidance material has been prepared using the best information available to Access Canberra. Any information about legislative obligations or responsibilities included in this material is only applicable to the circumstances described in the material. You should always check the legislation referred to in this material and make your own judgement about what action you may need to take to ensure you have complied with the law. Accordingly, Access Canberra extends no warranties as to the suitability of the information for your specific situation.