

# WORKING TOGETHER FOR CLEAN, HEALTHY WATERWAYS



## GOOD TO KNOW

Cleaning services such as carpet cleaning or janitorial service companies play an important role in keeping local waterways clean.

### Where the Water Flows

The sanitary sewer and stormwater systems are separate systems designed to manage water in different ways. The sanitary sewer system carries wastewater to a treatment plant whereas the stormwater system carries rain and runoff directly to local waterways, picking up dirt, debris, pet waste, soaps, etc. along its path.

### The Source of Stormwater Pollution

- Outside operations and maintenance can contaminate stormwater runoff.
- Wash water contains detergent, dirt and chemicals that harm the environment and are illegal to discharge.
- When equipment leaks, chemicals are washed into storm drains during rain events.
- Improper chemical storage creates an opportunity for chemicals to wash into stormwater.

### The Impact of Stormwater Pollution

- Chemicals contaminate local waterways.
- Dirt from wash water clouds waterways preventing sunlight from reaching the underwater grasses that serve as habitat for aquatic life including the Chesapeake Bay blue crab.

Following best management practices protects our waterways.



## GOOD TO DO

### Cleaning Services Best Management Practices



#### Maintenance, Storage & Handling

- ✓ Maintain cleaning equipment (tanks, hoses, fittings) to prevent wastewater leaks.
- ✓ Consider using non-toxic or less hazardous products whenever possible.
- ✓ Store all materials and waste in a manner that prevents contact with rainfall and runoff.
- ✓ Cover and provide secondary containment for all materials stored outside.



#### Spills & Leaks

- ✓ Keep a spill kit that includes absorbent pads and loose absorbent material onsite for rapid response to spills and leaks.
- ✓ Train staff in best management practices and spill response procedures.
- ✓ When spills occur:
  - ✓ Stop and contain the spill to prevent it from reaching storm drains.
  - ✓ Call a professional cleanup company when spills are beyond staff resources.
  - ✓ Use dry methods, such as absorbents, to clean up spills.
  - ✓ If chemicals reach the storm drain, call the fire marshal or 911 immediately.



#### Wastewater Disposal

- ✓ Never dispose of wastewater into a storm drain or paved area.
- ✓ Wash water and rinse water may be directed to an approved sanitary sewer drain or landscaped area, with permission from the property owner. A permit may be required prior to disposal to the sanitary sewer system. Check first with HRSD for authorization.
- ✓ Discharge wastewater to a holding tank. Wastewater from holding tanks shall be disposed to the sanitary sewer system at the business' headquarters or at an approved location.
- ✓ Discharge wastewater into a sanitary sewer drain either at your business facility or (with a customer's permission) into a toilet or utility sink at the job site.
- ✓ Filter wastewater before discharging it into the sanitary sewer system since fibers, hair, and other debris can clog pipes.

Sign up to be a **BAY STAR** Business Partner at [askHRgreen.org/BayStarBusiness](https://askHRgreen.org/BayStarBusiness)