

Floor Mat Cleaning



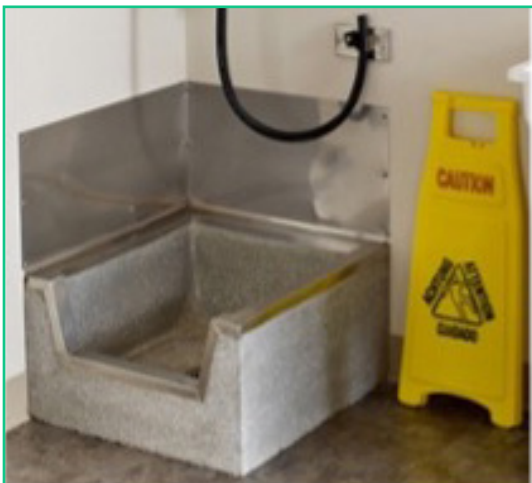
Wash water from kitchen floor mats or entry/exit door mats have the potential to contribute to ocean pollution if proper methods are not used to control, contain and capture the contaminated water appropriately. Never let contaminated wash water enter the storm drain system.

Control, Contain, Capture, Dispose

You **MUST** have a plan to control, contain, capture and dispose of the water used when washing materials to prevent it from entering the storm drain system, which includes nearby curb gutters, streets, alleys, ditches and storm drains.



- ◆ **Control:** Before starting the job, determine where the water will drain and how you will block, direct and collect it. Obtain all necessary permits and authorizations for wastewater disposal.
- ◆ **Contain:** Never let polluted wash water or debris leave your work area. Isolate the flow using containment pools, berms or booms to contain the water. Collect wash water in a permanent or temporary capture facility.
- ◆ **Capture:** Do not leave water on paved surfaces for evaporation. Use a wet vacuum, vacuum boom or vacuum pump to collect the water and properly dispose of it. Sweep up any visible solids and sediments remaining.
- ◆ **Dispose:** Wash water can be drained onto landscaped areas provided it can be absorbed by the soil without runoff or soil contamination. Wash water may also be collected and disposed of into the sanitary sewer system, such as an onsite sink, toilet or lateral cleanout.



STORMWATER REGULATIONS

It is illegal to discharge wash water from floor mat cleaning into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0304). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

Other Considerations

Indoor wash areas, mop sinks or indoor floor drains may be designated as wash areas for floor mats if these areas drain to the sanitary sewer system. Alternatively, floor mats may be sent to an off-site cleaning service. Floor mats soiled with oily materials, such as kitchen floor mats, shall only be cleaned where drains direct water through a grease trap, interceptor or clarifier before entering the City's sanitary sewer system.

If no acceptable indoor wash area exists, outdoor washing should be conducted such that wash water is fully captured and disposed of into the sanitary sewer system. Alternatively, mats may be washed with potable water and biodegradable detergent such that the water drains to on-site landscaped or pervious area(s) to infiltrate or evaporate, without resulting in erosion or runoff to the storm drain system or any adjacent property.

If dry cleaning techniques are used, including shaking out mats outdoors, the areas in which mats are shaken shall be cleaned by vacuuming or sweeping to prevent material shaken off mats from eventually being transported to the storm drain system. Mats may also be cleaned by vacuuming them directly, which does not release pollutants.



Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, beaches and, ultimately, the ocean. Stormwater often contains pollutants - including chemicals, trash and vehicle fluids - all of which contaminate our beaches and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices as part of your daily cleaning and maintenance routine.

