

## **Public Service Announcement – Carpet Cleaning**

The vacuum just doesn't seem to work anymore. The kids and the dog have tracked enough dirt into the house to plant a garden. So you decide it's time to clean the carpets. If you clean your own carpet, be sure to filter the dirty wash water to avoid clogging pipes. If it doesn't contain hazardous material, the filtered material can be placed in the garbage. Then discharge the wash water into a toilet, sink or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer.

Check the labels on the cleaning fluid. The word "non-toxic" means it's not toxic to the user. The word "biodegradable" means the product will eventually break down. Such products can still harm wildlife if they enter a storm drain, ditch, or otherwise enter the environment.

If you hire a professional carpet cleaner, talk with them to be sure they follow the same steps. Wash water should NEVER be discharged into a street, gutter, parking lot, storm drain, ditch or otherwise into the environment.

The Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium is a partnership of area communities working together to educate you on how we can make great strides in protecting and enjoying our environment. Go to [NewWaterWisconsin.org](http://NewWaterWisconsin.org) for more information.