

# Mobile Cleaning – Water Softeners



Photo Credit: Geoff Brosseau

## Description

This category includes businesses that both conduct their own mobile cleaning activities and those that are hired as contractors to conduct these activities. Mobile cleaning differs from other cleaning activities in that the cleaning is not conducted in a dedicated, fixed location with a wastewater capture and treatment system connected to the sanitary sewer system. This category includes servicing water softeners. Information specific to: other amenities, transportation-related cleaning, food service business-related cleaning, or surface cleaning is provided in other guide sheets.

## Pollutant Sources

The following are sources of pollutants:

- Regeneration

Pollutants can include:

- Brine containing calcium and magnesium

## Approach

Never discharge wash water or wastewater from these activities to the street, gutter, or near a storm drain.

Source Control BMPs: The best management practices are listed by activity or area.

- Brine from regeneration must be discharged to a sink, toilet, or other drain connected to the sanitary sewer system – never to a street, gutter, parking lot, or storm drain. Either:
  - Empty the brine into a utility sink or other indoor sewer connection at the service provider's home base
- or
- Arrange with the customer to discharge into a toilet or utility sink on their premises.
- Check the local wastewater authority's requirements for discharge.

## Treatment Control BMPs

The use of self-contained, mobile wastewater collection and treatment units may be appropriate and cost-effective for some mobile cleaning activities.

## More Information

No additional information is available that provides: 1) more specific information than is included in these guide sheets or 2) information in other formats – posters and videos – that may complement these guide sheets.

## References

University of Nebraska—Lincoln, 1996. Water Treatment Equipment: Water Softeners, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Cooperative Extension.

<http://www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/housing/>

