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DRY CLEANING

A quick guide to essential pollution prevention (P2) information on Dry Cleaning, with a compilation of the best available on-line resources.

Why P2 for Dry Cleaners?

Perchloroethylene (perc) accounts for more than 80% of all dry cleaning fluid. According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) health effects associated with overexposure to perc include depression of the central nervous systems, damage to the liver and kidneys, dizziness, headache, and eye, nose, and throat irritation. Recent regulatory changes have mandated changes in equipment and operations for perc dry cleaners. Perc contamination of groundwater is common in many areas. P2 practices can help businesses reduce liability, decrease costs associated with regulatory burden, and provide a safer business and work environment.

How Do Dry Cleaners Prevent Pollution?

Process changes such as sizing garment loads correctly and minimizing time machine doors and button traps are open, utilizing good maintenance practices (leak checking, cleaning lint screens, and equipment monitoring), and incorporating spill prevention techniques into daily operations will reduce the amount of solvent lost. Alternate spotting materials that are less hazardous can be used.

Additionally, many new processes and solvents are currently being used with success and without dangerous chemical exposure. Find out more about wet cleaning, ultrasonic cleaning, and supercritical carbon dioxide cleaning.

Best P2 Resources at Your Fingertips

Topic Hubs are peer-reviewed on-line primers that include background and operational information plus specific opportunities for pollution prevention. They include an extensive list of links for the "best of the best" on-line resources: manuals, checklists, fact sheets, case studies, etc. The Dry Cleaning Topic Hub includes a regulatory review in addition to an extensive list of P2 opportunities involving process modification, material substitution, and new technology.

Topic Hubs are valuable resources for P2 programs, regulators, environmental managers, and industry. P2Rx centers have more than 55 Topic Hubs available on a wide range of issues covering many industrial sectors. Check them out at www.p2rx.org/hubs.

Did You Know?

■ It is not only cost effective to reduce wastes, it may be key to a positive public image and competitive edge in a highly competitive market.

■ Dry cleaning wastes are generated from spills, leaks, transferring clothes, separator water, filters, rags, and other sources.

■ The International Fabricare Institute (IFI) states wet cleaning 30-40 percent of customers' garments can be accomplished with minimal difficulty. Up to 80 percent may be wet cleaned if specialized equipment and trained personnel are used.

**View the complete
Dry Cleaning
Topic Hub at
p2rx.org/hubs**

How to Use the Topic Hub™ Web Resource

Navigate to all Subsections

Search the references used for this Topic Hub

Access Any Topic Hub

Search Hubs by Keywords

Read an overview of the issues

Current Topic Hubs

Aerospace	Food Service	Metal Finishing
Agricultural Teaching Labs	Green Procurement	Oil and Gas
Auto Body	Hospitality	P2 and Environmental Security
Auto Repair	Household Hazardous Materials	Paint and Coating Manufacturing
Auto Salvage—Great Lakes Region	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Schools	Pollution Prevention (P2)
Clean Snowmobiles	Landscaping	Pollution Prevention for Arts Education
Community Growth	Lead	Pork Production
Construction Science Education	Lean Manufacturing	Printing-Flexography
Consumer P2	Marinas and Small Boat Harbors	Printing-Lithography
Dioxin	Meat Processing	Public Lands
Dry Cleaning	Mercury	Publicly Owned Treatment Works
Economic Incentives	Mercury-Automotive	Regulatory Integration
Electric Utilities	Mercury-Dental	Residential Construction
Electronic Waste	Mercury-Health Care	Semiconductor Manufacturing
EMS	Mercury-Schools	Ship Building and Repair
EMS in Government	Mercury-Thermometers	Ski Areas
Environmental Management Accounting	Mercury-Thermostats	Technology Diffusion
Environmental Measurement	Metal Fabrication and Machining	Textiles
Environmental Mentoring		Wood Furniture Manufacturing
Fiberglass Fabrication		Youth Education