



Preventing Pollution in the Garment Care Industry

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) has prepared these fact sheets for the garment care industry. The fact sheets outline basic regulatory requirements and best management practices. Although they do not constitute legal advice, they represent a starting point for understanding where your business is subject to environmental regulation. In addition, these fact sheets may help you in identifying areas where you can reduce the regulations that you must comply with, protect yourself from fines and liabilities, and protect you and your employees from hazards in the shop.

How to Use These Fact Sheets

Each fact sheet deals with a specific issue or material you may deal with in your business. Most fact sheets are divided into five sections:

- ◆ **Potential Environmental Impacts** - Describes the effect of a particular activity or material on the environment.
- ◆ **Legal Requirements** - Provides a quick reference for environmental compliance.
 - CGS refers to the Connecticut General Statutes,
 - RCSA refers to the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and
 - CFR refers to the Code of Federal Regulations.
- ◆ **Best Management Practices** - Offers ways to reduce environmental impacts that may also reduce your regulatory obligations, save money, and protect the health of you and your employees.
- ◆ **Pollution Prevention Checklist** - A reminder to help you implement some of the best management practices.
- ◆ **Did You Know?** - Tells an interesting fact relevant to the material in the fact sheet.

The fact sheets also contain an Appendix, which summarizes the hazardous waste management requirements that apply to garment care facilities.

The last page is **contact information** with CT DEP and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) phone numbers you may find useful.

Other Resources

These fact sheets are also available on the CT DEP web site and are periodically updated. The site is dep.state.ct.us/wst/index.htm. There are other resources that you may want to consult:

- ◆ EPA's Design For the Environment (DfE) Garment and Textile Care Project works with the garment care industry and individual shops to increase awareness of the health and environmental concerns associated with cleaning activities and to identify and encourage the use of safer, cleaner, more efficient practices and technologies. www.epa.gov/oppt/dfe/projects/garment/index.htm
- ◆ The Center for Neighborhood Technology promotes alternatives to toxic and hazardous chemicals. www.cnt.org/wetcleaning
- ◆ The Connecticut Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Conn-OSHA) provides training and education programs and on-site consulting. Conn-OSHA does not enforce occupational safety and health standards in private businesses in Connecticut. These standards are enforced by Federal OSHA. The two Federal OSHA Area Offices in Connecticut are located in Bridgeport and Hartford. www.ctdol.state.ct.us/osha/osha.htm

Be aware that implementation of some pollution prevention options (such as installation of a solvent distillation unit) may require authorization, permits or modification to existing permits from the DEP or other agencies.

Disclaimer

Vendors, products and services listed in these fact sheets are supplied as a source of information and are neither approved nor endorsed by the CT DEP. You should fully investigate any vendor performance claims before investing in such product or service.

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For more information on this guide, please contact:

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