



Potential Environmental Impacts

Lint, filters, used rags (also called wipes, wipers, and shop towels) and absorbent materials (such as mats, socks, and loose material such as speedi-dry) that are contaminated with perc or another solvent, must be carefully managed to prevent or reduce the risk of fire, and protect human health and the environment.

Legal Requirements

- ◆ How lint, used rags, filters and absorbents are managed depends on what they are contaminated with. [40 CFR 279 and RCSA Section 22a-449(c)-119; 40 CFR 261 and RCSA Section 22a-449(c)-101; CGS Section 22a-454]

If the item is:

- contaminated with perc, manage as a hazardous waste (see Appendix A).
 - contaminated with flammable solvents or other hazardous wastes, manage as hazardous waste (see Appendix A).
 - contaminated with pre-spotters/spot removers, manage as hazardous waste (see Appendix A) or perform a hazardous waste determination.
 - contaminated with non-hazardous materials, such as mild cleaners or soaps, dispose of in regular trash.
- ◆ If you dispose of used carbon adsorber cartridges, you must manage them as hazardous waste.
 - ◆ Waste aerosol cans:
 - If the aerosol can contained a chemical that must be managed as hazardous waste (such as some spot cleaners), the can must be managed as hazardous waste, unless it is completely empty. If it is empty, it may be disposed in the trash or recycled.
 - ◆ Keep lint, used rags or absorbents that have been contaminated with hazardous materials such as perc or solvents separate from the regular trash.

Best Management Practices

- ★ Store ignitable rags in NFPA-approved (National Fire Prevention Association), labeled containers until they are picked up for laundering or disposal.
- ★ Contract with a permitted industrial laundry service that delivers clean cloth rags and will pick up the used rags on a regular basis. The laundry service may require you to limit the solvent and other chemical content of the soiled rags because of the limits on their permit to discharge wastewater.

- ★ All laundries in Connecticut that handle industrial rags must have a wastewater discharge permit from the CT-DEP. Have your laundry service certify that they hold the appropriate permits and they are in compliance with the permit conditions. For a list of facilities that have valid discharge permits and their compliance status with the permit conditions, call the CT-DEP at (860) 424-3018.
- ★ Reduce the amount of hazardous materials used in spot cleaning through improved work practices.
- ★ Ask suppliers for non-toxic spot cleaners.
- ★ Always ask for the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) when considering purchase of a new product and use this information as part of your product evaluation, checking for the presence of regulated chemicals. Try to reduce the purchase of products containing these chemicals to reduce your hazardous waste generation.



Proper storage of lint, rags & filters

Pollution Prevention Checklist

- ✓ Do you read the MSDS before purchasing a new product?
- YES NO N/A



Did You Know ?

Some pre-spotters contain Trichloroethane or Tetrachloroethylene (perc) - both of which must be managed as a hazardous waste when disposed.

2004 Garment Care Fact Sheets

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 Office of Pollution Prevention (860) 424-3297 www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/garcare/gcindex.htm
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