

Dry Cleaners: Overview of Environmental Requirements

Background

Oregon dry cleaning law requires the use of certain types of dry cleaning equipment and specific waste management practices. These practices reduce air emissions from solvents, reduce the potential for spills and releases of solvents, protect groundwater, and promote more efficient use of dry cleaning solvent.

This fact sheet explains the following “waste minimization” requirements as called for by Oregon’s Dry Cleaner law and federal air quality regulations:

1. Acceptable types of dry cleaning equipment.
2. Managing dry cleaning waste as hazardous waste.
3. Managing solvent-contaminated wastewater.
4. Containment under and around dry cleaning equipment and solvent-containing items.
5. Annual reporting of waste minimization and hazardous waste management practices.
6. Reporting releases of dry cleaning solvent.
7. Delivering perchloroethylene solvent (perc).
8. Air quality monitoring and recordkeeping requirements for perc dry cleaners.

Complying with these requirements is necessary for your facility to be eligible to be cleaned up using funding from the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Account.

Acceptable types of dry cleaning equipment

Dry cleaning facilities in Oregon must use the following types of dry cleaning equipment:

- A dry cleaning facility may not include operation of transfer-type dry cleaning equipment using perchloroethylene.
- All newly installed dry cleaning equipment using perchloroethylene shall be of the dry-to-dry type and be equipped with integral refrigerated condensers with an outlet temperature sensor for the control of perchloroethylene emissions.
- All existing dry cleaning equipment using perchloroethylene (perc) shall install refrigerated condensers.
- Any dry cleaning facility that converts and operates as a dry store must have

solvent and solvent-containing waste removed from a dry cleaning machine on the premise. In addition, the dry cleaning machine must not be connected to any utilities.

- A dry cleaning facility that ceases operation for 45 continuous days must have solvent and solvent-containing waste removed from the dry cleaning machine prior to the machine being disposed, recycled or reused.

Hazardous waste management

Waste is considered hazardous if it causes or significantly increases the risk of death or illness or poses a substantial hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Waste can be hazardous either because it contains a “listed” chemical or has “characteristic” hazards such as ignitability or toxicity.

According to Oregon law, all waste (excluding wastewater) generated at a dry cleaning facility that contains perc is a hazardous waste. This can include sludge, filters, lint, and solvent containing wastewater. Dry cleaner wastes containing perc are “listed” hazardous wastes.

Dry cleaning waste may be hazardous regardless of the solvent. Wastes are considered “characteristic” hazardous wastes if they have certain characteristics such as ignitability or toxicity. If you don’t know if your waste is hazardous, please see DEQ’s “How to Determine if Your Waste is Hazardous” fact sheet or DEQ’s [Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator Handbook](#).

For more information on managing your hazardous waste, see the “Dry Cleaners: Hazardous Waste Management” fact sheet.

Wastewater management

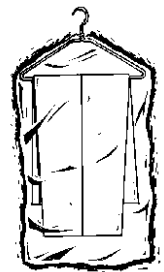
The law prohibits the discharge of solvent-contaminated wastewater from dry cleaning machines to any sanitary sewer, septic system, boiler or state waters.

Dry cleaners can either drum up their wastewater and ship it off-site as a hazardous waste, or properly manage it according to State rules, at their dry cleaning facility.



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Updated: 11/03
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DEQ-04-LQ-019

This requirement will prevent the future contamination of groundwater by keeping solvents and solvent-contaminated wastewater from leaking through cracks in sewer lines.

For more information on how to manage solvent-contaminated wastewater, please see DEQ's [Dry Cleaners: Wastewater Management](#) fact sheet.

Containment under and around dry cleaning systems

Containment pans must be installed under and around equipment and machines that use, treat, or store ANY dry cleaning solvent. Containment pans must be under the dry cleaning machine, wastewater treatment unit hazardous waste container, and any solvent stored onsite. This requirement provides extra protection to contain leaks and spills. Solvents can pool and leak into the ground underneath the dry cleaning facility, causing major environmental problems.

Perc is heavier than water and a perc spill can go through the pores in concrete and potentially contaminate the soil and groundwater under a dry cleaning facility. Containment pans can prevent this from happening.

Also, spills and leaks of solvents are easier to clean up in a containment pan.

For more information on the size and material requirements for containment pans and to find out what should go inside a containment pan, see DEQ's "Dry Cleaners: Containment Under and Around Dry Cleaning Systems" fact sheet.

Annual hazardous waste and air compliance report

Dry cleaners are required to report annually to DEQ on their compliance with the law's waste minimization requirements. These requirements include proper waste management and reporting releases of solvent as well as the use of dry cleaning equipment.

In September 1993, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued national regulations to control air emissions of perc from dry cleaners. DEQ has adopted these standards and is the primary implementing agency for these standards. The regulation requires dry cleaners to keep records to demonstrate compliance with the standards. DEQ incorporates reporting of these records as part of the Dry Cleaner Annual Report.

Any business that either dry cleans clothes from the public or accepts clothes from the public for dry cleaning must complete the annual report. In

addition, these same businesses must notify DEQ within 60 days of any of the following changes:

- Opening a new dry cleaning or dry store business.
- Closure of an existing dry cleaning or dry store business.
- Change of property ownership.
- Change of dry cleaning business owner/operator or dry store owner/operator.
- Sale of a dry cleaning business.

For more information on annual reporting, see DEQ's "Dry Cleaners: Annual Hazardous Waste and Air Quality Compliance Report" fact sheet.

Reporting releases of dry cleaner solvent

Remember, you are required to report spills, leaks, or releases, of more than one pound of dry cleaning solvent (about one cup of perc) that occur outside of your containment pan to the Oregon Emergency Response System at 1-800-452-0311.

Releases that occur within your containment pan do not need to be reported, provided they are:

- Fully contained in the containment pan,
- Cleaned up immediately, and
- The cause of the spill is immediately repaired.

For more information on reporting spills, see DEQ's "Dry Cleaners: Reporting Releases of Dry Cleaning Solvents" fact sheet.

Delivering perc solvent

Requirements for the delivery of dry cleaning solvent apply only to perc. Delivery of other solvents does not have to comply with these requirements.

All perc must be delivered to the dry cleaning facility and dry cleaning machine using a closed, direct-coupled delivery system. It is the responsibility of the dry cleaning operator to install closed, self-sealing couplings at the solvent input and air vent points, on all dry cleaning machines in the facility.

It is the responsibility of the solvent supplier to deliver solvent to the dry cleaning facility in containers that are fitted with closed, self-sealing couplings for the solvent input line and the air capture line. This measurement reduces perc air emissions and the likelihood of solvent releases.

For more information on the delivery of perc, see DEQ's "Dry Cleaners: Delivery of Perchloroethylene Solvent" fact sheet.

For other types of solvent delivery, it is good practice to make certain that filling of petroleum solvents into dry cleaning tanks occurs within the containment pan in case a spill occurs.



The requirements for a closed, direct-coupled delivery system also apply to on-site perc transfer, such as topping off a dry cleaning solvent tank from a container. However, DEQ recommends that, in order to avoid spills, this type of product transfer should not be done.

Air quality monitoring and record keeping requirements

Perc is released into the air from dry cleaning machine vents and from “fugitive” emissions. Fugitive emissions occur when you open the doors to remove clothing, when you clean filters, and any time the machine is left open. They can also occur because of equipment leaks.

All dry cleaners must keep records of their monitoring activities, leak detection and repair program and monthly perc purchases. DEQ provides Oregon dry cleaners with a calendar each year to assist with specific monitoring and recordkeeping requirements, such as:

- Date and amount of perc purchases
- Weekly refrigerated condenser outlet temperature log (temp must be less than or equal to 45F at the end of the cool down cycle)
- Weekly leak detection inspection log, including a log for tracking leak repair activities.

For more information about specific air quality requirements, see DEQ’s fact sheet: “Dry Cleaners and Air Quality” at: www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cleanup/dry0.htm or call DEQ’s Air Quality Small Business Assistance Program, Portland, at 503-229-6147.

Who do I call with questions?

If you have any questions about the Dry Cleaner Program, call Dick De Zeeuw, Portland, at 503-229-6240, or toll free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011.

Dry cleaner fact sheets and rules available from DEQ

- Oregon Dry Cleaner Program Overview for Dry Cleaners
- Dry Cleaners: Overview of Environmental Requirements
- Dry Cleaners: Hazardous Waste Management
- Dry Cleaners: Wastewater Management
- Dry Cleaners: Containment Under and Around Dry Cleaning Systems
- Dry Cleaners: Annual Hazardous Waste And Air Quality Compliance Report
- Dry Cleaners: Reporting Releases of Dry Cleaning Solvent
- Dry Cleaners: Delivery of Perchloroethylene Solvent
- Dry Cleaner Program Environmental Response Claim and Claim Form
- Dry Cleaners and Air Quality Requirements
- Emergency Information (poster)
- Change of Dry Cleaning Activity Form
- Dry Cleaner Rules (OAR 340-124)

To request a copy of any or all of these fact sheets, please call 503-229-6783 or toll free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011.

You can also find this information at DEQ’s dry cleaner Web site at:

www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cleanup/dry0.htm

Alternative formats

Alternative formats of this document (such as large type or Braille) can be made available. Contact DEQ’s Office of Communication and Outreach, Portland, for more information at 503-229-5696.

Fact sheets are also available in Korean & Vietnamese. For copies, contact Ed Patnode, in Portland, at 503-229-6783.