

## Dry Cleaners: Containment Under and Around Dry Cleaning Systems

### Background

Dry cleaners are required to install containment under and around equipment and machines that use, treat or store any dry cleaning solvent. 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.

For example, perchloroethylene (perc) is heavier than water and a spill can go through pores in concrete and potentially contaminate soil and groundwater under a dry cleaning facility. Containment pans are intended to prevent this from happening.

Also, spills, leaks and releases of solvents are easier to clean up in a containment pan. Captured solvent can easily be reclaimed by running it through the dry cleaning machine. Releases of dry cleaning solvents can effectively be controlled with a good equipment leak inspection program, containment pans and prompt cleanup of any spilled dry cleaning solvent.

Complying with the requirements described in this fact sheet is necessary for your facility to be eligible to be cleaned up using funding from the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Account.

### What should be in containment pans?

- Dry cleaning machine
- Stored solvent
- Wastewater treatment unit
- Hazardous waste storage containers
- All other equipment in which dry cleaning solvent is used, treated or stored

If there is not enough room in the containment pan around your dry cleaning machine for all this equipment, use additional containment pans or containers to secure your wastewater treatment unit, solvent product and hazardous waste containers.

### What are the requirements for containment pans?

Oregon law requires that containment systems be “capable of containing dry cleaning solvent

under and around each machine or item of equipment in which any dry cleaning solvent is used, treated, or stored.” To meet this standard, containment pans must meet the following standards:

#### For Dry Cleaning Machine

- Constructed of rigid metal material impermeable to the solvent.
- Capable of containing at least 110% of the capacity of the largest tank in the dry cleaning machine for 72 hours.
- Extends to the outside perimeter of the dry cleaning machine.
- Installed so the integrity of the pan is not compromised (such as bolts that go directly through the pan, into the floor).
- If sealant or caulk is used, it shall be impermeable and impervious to the solvent.
- Sealant must be inspected and maintained in non-leaking condition.

#### For Stored Dry Cleaning Solvent

- Constructed of rigid material impermeable to the solvent.
- Capable of containing at least 110% of the capacity of solvent being stored.
- Outdoor storage areas must be secured and covered to protect from weather and vandalism.

#### For Wastewater Treatment Unit

- Constructed of rigid material impermeable to the solvent.
- Capable of containing at least 110% of the capacity of the wastewater treatment unit.

#### For Hazardous Waste Storage

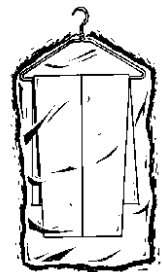
- Constructed of rigid material impermeable to the solvent.
- Capable of containing 110% of the volume of the liquid contained in each hazardous waste storage container.
- Outdoor storage areas must be secured and covered to protect from weather and vandalism.



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

#### Land Quality Division Environmental Cleanup Dry Cleaner Program

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### **For Other Items In Which Solvent Is Used, Treated, or Stored**

- Constructed of rigid material impermeable to the solvent.
- Capable of containing 110% of the volume of the liquid contained in each piece of equipment.
- Outdoor storage areas must be secured and covered to protect from weather and vandalism.

### **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 1-800-452-4011.

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

[www.deq.state.or.us/lq/cu/drycleaner/index.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/cu/drycleaner/index.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.*

