

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

### Background

Dry cleaners in Oregon are required by state law 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 beneath the dry cleaning facility, causing major environmental problems.

Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality administers the state's Dry Cleaner Program. Complying with the requirements described in this fact sheet is necessary for your facility to be eligible to be cleaned up using funds from the state's Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Account, which DEQ manages.

### Why containment is important

Dry cleaning solvents can contaminate groundwater and soil. Perchloroethylene (PERC), for example, is heavier than water and when spilled can go through pores in concrete and potentially contaminate the soil and groundwater underneath a dry cleaning facility. Containment can 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 plan, containment pans and prompt cleanup of any spilled solvent.

### 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's 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.

### Requirements for container 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 machines:

- Constructed of rigid metal material impermeable to the solvent.
- Capable of containing at least 110 percent of the capacity of the largest tank in the dry cleaning machine for 72 hours
- Extended 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)
- Impermeable and impervious to the solvent if sealant or caulk is used. 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 percent 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 percent of the capacity of the wastewater treatment unit

#### For hazardous waste storage:

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



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*DEQ is a leader in restoring,  
maintaining and enhancing  
the quality of Oregon's air,  
land and water.*

**For other items in which solvent is used, treated or stored:**

- Constructed of rigid material impermeable to the solvent
- Capable of containing 110 percent 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?**

For any questions about containing solvents at your facility or about the Oregon Dry Cleaner Program in general, contact the Dry Cleaner Program Coordinator, Nancy Cardwell at 503-229-6240, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011 or e-mail

[drycleanerinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:drycleanerinfo@deq.state.or.us)

**Dry cleaner fact sheets and rules**

DEQ has several fact sheets explaining in more detail all aspects of the Oregon Dry Cleaner Program, its rules and regulations. All are available on DEQ's dry cleaner program web page at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Dry-Cleaners-QA.aspx>

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

**Alternative formats**

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email [Drycleanerinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Drycleanerinfo@deq.state.or.us).