

Dry Cleaners: Listing Inactive Facilities

Background

In 2001, the Oregon Legislature amended the state's dry cleaner statute to allow owners or operators of inactive dry cleaner facilities to apply for funding from the state's Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Account. This account was established in 1995 through fees paid by the dry cleaning industry to provide funding to clean up solvent contamination at dry cleaning facilities in Oregon. This fact sheet provides guidance about the application process to prospective program applicants.

Who is eligible for listing?

To be eligible for listing, a dry cleaning facility must formerly have been:

- Located in Oregon.
- Engaged in dry cleaning of apparel and household fabrics for the general public.
- Eligible to receive funding from the account as of Dec. 31, 2001.

Who can apply?

The applicant must be the current or former owner or former operator of an inactive dry cleaning facility or a representative of the current or former owner or former operator.

Do I have to apply?

No. Listing an inactive dry cleaning facility is voluntary and the decision to apply should be based on the circumstances surrounding each individual dry cleaning site. However, you must apply to have your inactive dry cleaning facility placed on the list to be eligible to receive funding from the account.

Applications and deadlines

Applications are available by calling Nancy Cardwell of DEQ's Dry Cleaner Program, Portland, at (503) 229-6240 or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011.

Applications are also available online:

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

Deadlines: For facilities that became inactive before Dec. 31, 2001, the deadline to apply was Dec. 31, 2002. Applications postmarked after Jan. 1, 2003 will not be accepted by DEQ. Facilities that became inactive after Jan. 1, 2002 must **submit an application within 180 days of becoming inactive.**

What questions are asked in the application?

The application includes two sections. The first section asks for basic information about the dry cleaning facility, dry cleaner operator, property owner, and evidence that the dry cleaner operator operated the facility listed on the application. If the questions in Section 1 are not answered, the application will not be accepted by DEQ.

Section 2 asks for historical information about the site that may assist DEQ in assessing contamination at the site and the risk it may pose to human health and the environment. This information includes: evidence that the current dry cleaner operator is in compliance with the Oregon Dry Cleaner Program, a history of reporting spills or releases, and information about contamination at the site.

Does being listed mean my facility is eligible for funding from the account?

Not necessarily. In addition to being listed, a dry cleaning facility must have been an inactive dry cleaning facility eligible to receive funding from the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Account as of Dec. 31, 2001, and all annual fees must be paid.

Is there an application fee?

No.

What happens after the application has been submitted?

After the application has been submitted, DEQ will review it to make sure the application is complete, and will verify that the fee has been paid.

The applicant will receive notification from DEQ verifying they have been placed on the list of inactive dry cleaning facilities eligible to receive funding from the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Account.

Note: To remain on the list compiled by DEQ, you must pay an annual fee to the Department of environmental Quality. Failure to pay the fee will remove you from the list.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

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maintaining and enhancing
the quality of Oregon's air,
land and water.*

When will my facility be cleaned up?

If you believe your facility is contaminated with dry cleaning solvent, and wish to have it cleaned up using funds from the account, you must submit a “Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Claim Form.” This form can be obtained from DEQ.

After you have submitted a claim to have your facility cleaned up, DEQ will determine whether or not your facility is eligible. After that, the order in which cleanups will be funded is based on, at a minimum, the following factors:

- The risk to public health and the environment posed by the release of solvents from the dry cleaning facility.
- The need for remedial action at a facility relative to the amount of funds in the account and the needs of other facilities.
- The relative environmental risks presented by each of the eligible facilities applying for funding.

For more information on making a claim to have your site cleaned up, see the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Claim fact sheet.

Who do I call with questions?

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

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 tollfree 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 deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.