

Dry Cleaners: Decommissioning a Perc Dry Cleaning Machine



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

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

Background

Dry cleaners are responsible for ensuring that perchloroethylene (perc) dry cleaning machines are legally and safely removed. You can limit potential contamination and save money on waste disposal and regulatory fees by following a few simple steps.

This fact sheet explains the requirements for safely removing a perc dry cleaning machine. This may occur if when a dry cleaner:

- Closes or moves;
- Installs a new dry cleaner machine with a non-Perc solvent;
- Changes to a wet cleaner (no solvent); or
- Changes to a Dry Store.

Send in a change of activity form

Dry cleaners are required to notify the Oregon DEQ whenever they make significant changes to their business by submitting a Change of Activity form. To receive a form call 503-229-6240 or email drycleanerinfo@deq.state.or.us.

Cancel DEQ air permit

Dry cleaners using perc are also required to obtain an Air Contaminant Discharge Permit or ACDP. Once the dry cleaning machine has been decommissioned and/or removed, a dry cleaner operator/owner is required to cancel their air permit to avoid any future annual permit fees. Cancellations must be submitted in writing along with documentation of the decommissioning of the perc machine and sent to the regional permit coordinator:

Northwest Region

Department of Environmental Quality
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Telephone: 503-229-5582

Western Region

Department of Environmental Quality
4026 Fairview Industrial Drive
Salem, OR 97302
Telephone: 503-378-8240 ext. 225

Eastern Region

Department of Environmental Quality
475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110
Bend, OR 97701
Telephone: 541-388-6146 ext. 223

Decommission dry cleaning machine

Perc dry cleaning machines contain hazardous chemicals that pose a threat to human health and the environment. Select a bonded and licensed company to evacuate and recover the refrigerant from the refrigerated condenser, safely recover remaining perc, and disconnect from all utilities.

The following companies decommission dry cleaning machines. This list is neither a DEQ endorsement nor a guarantee that the services provided will be completed according to federal or state regulations. It is not a complete list of companies decommissioning dry cleaning machines in Oregon.

Arent Machinery Co. Best Equipment Co.

503 657-3000
CCB#79174

971-219-2255
CCB# 100846

HD-Machinery

503-997-5441
CCB# 176823

Peterson Equipment

Co.
503-981-4032
CCB# 84500

Hazardous Waste

Dispose of hazardous waste either through a licensed hazardous waste disposal company or at a government-sponsored Conditionally Exempt Generator (CEG) collection event or facility. Hazardous waste from a perc dry cleaning machine includes:

- Sludge containing perc
- Filters containing perc
- Lint
- Perc separator water collected in a bucket
- Perc separator water piped directly to an evaporator

The following companies can provide hazardous waste disposal services to dry cleaners. This list is neither a DEQ endorsement nor a guarantee that the hazardous waste will be managed according to federal or state regulations. It is not a complete list of companies providing hazardous waste disposal services to dry cleaners in Oregon.

- Safety-Kleen Corporation
Clackamas: 503-655-5798
Medford: 541-770-8066
Springfield: 1-800-669-5941
- Phillips Services: 1-800-547-2436
- Technichem: 1-800-652-5455
[Serves only the I-5 Corridor]
- Lane County: 541-682-4120

For more information about Oregon's Dry Cleaner Program visit DEQ's dry cleaner webpage: <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Dry-Cleaner.aspx>

Request a technical assistance visit

Oregon Dry Cleaner Program staff offer technical assistance visits for dry cleaners and property owners. To schedule a visit, or for any questions about program requirements, 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

Will I need an environmental cleanup?

While decommissioning your dry cleaner machine, consider whether there may have been contamination or spills at your facility. If you believe your property needs a cleanup, evaluate your insurance coverage – including present and past policies – to determine if the insurance might cover part or all of the cleanup costs.

In the past, site owners and operators often purchased comprehensive insurance for their properties and businesses in the form of Commercial General Liability (GCL) policies. While modern CGL policies have specific language excluding coverage for contamination

and pollution, those in effect before 1986 typically lacked such exclusions. Therefore, if a hazardous-substance release occurred before 1986, CGL policies in place from the date of release until 1986 may be a source of funding to perform needed investigation and cleanup.

Evidence of contamination

Prior to applying for a cleanup, responsible parties must provide detailed site history and any evidence site contamination. Many property owners hire environmental consultants to sample the soil for contamination.

Dry Cleaner Environmental Claim Response

To apply for cleanup funding, complete an Environmental Response Claim form. Applications are evaluated and prioritized based on a number of factors, including but not limited to:

- The dry cleaning facility's risk to public health and the environment.
- Direct cost of technical investigation, remedy evaluations, and cleanup.
- Availability of funds.

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-OA.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 deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.