

Dry Cleaning

The following information provides Best Management Practices (BMPs) recommended for facilities that conduct cleaning of apparel, textile industrial goods and other fabric items.

POTENTIAL POLLUTANT SOURCES

The following activities are potential sources of pollutants:

- Chemical Storage
- Chemical Use
- Equipment Maintenance and Repair
- Cooling water

Pollutants may include:

- Toxic chemicals (solvents, chlorinated compounds, glycols)
- Hydrocarbons (oil and grease, PAHs)

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Using pollution prevention measures may reduce or eliminate the need to implement other more costly or complicated procedures.

The following pollution prevention principles apply to most facilities:

- Use alternative, safer, non-toxic, and/or recycled products;
- Reduce storm water flow across the site and redirect flows away from storm drains, gutters, and streets;
- Reduce the use of water and/or use dry methods;
- Recycle and reuse waste products and waste flows; and.
- Provide on-going employee training.

GENERAL GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PROCEDURES

- Vacuum or sweep. Do not wash shop floors or adjacent outdoor areas. Never discharge wash water into storm drains, gutters or streets.
- Move or cover activities and materials to prevent contact with storm water.
- Dispose of chemical recovery filters appropriately.
- Label on-site storm drains.

CHEMICAL STORAGE

- Clearly label all chemicals containers.

- Store chemicals indoors, if possible. If chemicals must be stored outside, construct a covered area with berms to protect the containers from contact with storm water and to contain spills.
- Do not leave chemical containers uncovered. Use air-tight containers for chemical storage.

CHEMICAL USE

- Use only as much chemicals as needed for cleaning. Reuse or recycle chemicals, if possible.
- Collect wash water and dispose of properly. Do not discharge wash water into storm drains, gutters, or streets.
- Use a licensed service to dispose of hazardous waste. Hazardous wastes can include used rags soaked with solvents, floor cleaners and detergents.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

- Move maintenance and repair activities indoors, if possible. If it is not possible, cover the repair area with a roof and cover the ground with a tarp, ground cloth, or drip pans.
- Regularly inspect equipment for leaks. Collect leaking or dripping fluids in drip pans or containers.
- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents for cleaning machines rather than solvents. Wastewater that is contaminated with any detectable amount of dry cleaning solvent is prohibited from being discharged into the sanitary sewer.

SPILL CONTROL

- Develop and maintain a spill response plan.
- Place an adequate stockpile of spill cleanup materials where it will be readily accessible.
- Spot clean leaks and drips routinely.
- Clean leaks, drips, and other spills with as little water as possible. Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general cleanup, and dry absorbent material for larger spills.
- Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.
- Keep the spill from entering the streets, gutters, and storm drains.
- Do not use bleach or disinfectants if there is a possibility that rinse water could flow to a street, gutter, or storm drain.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

- Train employees on these practices.
- Train staff on the proper maintenance of your facility.
- Train employees on your facility's spill control plan, proper spill containment and cleanup procedures.
- Establish a regular training schedule, train all new employees, and conduct annual refresher training.
- Use a training log or similar method to document training.

Sources:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (www.tceq.state.tx.us)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov)