

DRY CLEANERS & LAUNDRIES

Laundries can introduce contaminants into stormwater, including cleaning agents, solvents, detergents, by-products, oil/grease/lubricants, steam cleaning waste, and trash. Discharging wastewater containing detectable amounts of dry-cleaning solvent into sanitary sewers or stormwater systems is prohibited. This requires proper handling as hazardous waste through licensed hazardous waste haulers, equipped with an EPA ID number (epa.gov).

BEST PRACTICES

Equipment Maintenance

- Regularly inspect equipment for leaks and quickly repair them.
- Keep machine doors closed and secured, except during loading and unloading.
- Maintain cleanliness in and around machines.
- Conduct maintenance and repair activities indoors.
- Drain all cartridge filters in their housing or other sealed containers for a minimum of 24 hours before disposal.

Spill Prevention & Response

- Create a follow a spill prevention and response plan.
- Keep spill cleanup materials accessible.
- Spot clean leaks and drips routinely.
- Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general cleanup, and dry absorbent material for larger spills.
- Promptly remove and dispose of absorbent materials properly.
- Vacuum/sweep debris; avoid washing outdoor areas if water can possibly enter streets or storm drains.
- Avoid using bleach or disinfectants if rinse water could flow into the streets, gutters, or storm drains.

Chemical Management

- Clearly label all chemical containers.
- Store chemicals indoors; if stored outside, cover them and provide secondary containment.
- Use airtight containers, especially for perc and perc waste.
- Store waste drums in secondary containment.

Employee Training

- Provide ongoing training on correct practices and facility maintenance.
- Train employees on your spill control plan and cleanup procedures.
- Establish a regular training schedule, including new employee training and annual refresher training.

Environmental Considerations

- Use alternative, safer, non-toxic, or recycled products when possible.
- Recycle and reuse waste products and waste flows.
- Reduce water usage and opt for dry cleanup methods if possible.
- NEVER discharge wash water into storm drains, gutters, or streets.

