

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR DRY CLEANERS USING SPOT REMOVERS

Several common spotting agents used to remove oil, grease, ink and other non-water soluble stains contain toxic chemicals such as trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PERC). Clothing treated with spotting agents containing TCE or PERC prior to wet cleaning or laundering can result in these chemicals being discharged with your wastewater. If even small amounts of TCE or PERC are discharged to a septic system, groundwater and nearby drinking water supplies may be contaminated. Therefore, it is very important that you avoid using spotting agents that contain PERC or TCE, especially if your wet cleaning or laundry machines discharge to a septic system. To minimize the potential to contaminate groundwater through wet cleaning or laundry discharge, you should use the following Best Management Practices:

- Ask your suppliers and trade associations about non-toxic or less toxic substitutes for the dry spotting agents that contain TCE, PERC, and other toxic chemicals.
- Minimize the amount of spotting agent that remains on the clothing by using a vacuum pump on the spotting table to suction off excess liquid.
- If you place a towel on the spotting board to absorb excess liquid do not wet clean or launder the solvent-laden towel.
- Minimize your use of dry spotting agents by using them only on stains that really require a strong solvent. Be selective.