

6 NYCRR Part 232: Perchloroethylene Drycleaning Facilities Waste Management and Spill Response

In 1997, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) promulgated a major revision to Part 232, the state regulation affecting perchloroethylene (perc) drycleaners. This revised regulation became effective **May 15, 1997** and addresses air emissions, hazardous waste management, spill response and wastewater management requirements.

This fact sheet summarizes Part 232's requirements other than managing air emissions. Other fact sheets about Part 232 are available and additional technical information is available by calling the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) at the toll-free number below, or on our website. All SBEAP services are free and confidential.

Hazardous Waste Management

All drycleaners must do the following:

Manage all perc-contaminated wastes in accordance with the hazardous waste requirements established under 6NYCRR Parts 370-376.

- Store all perc-contaminated wastes, including spent cartridge filters, spent carbon, still bottoms, and lint, in tightly sealed containers that are impermeable to perc.
- **Label all containers as hazardous waste (perc waste code F002/unused perc U210) and include the date the accumulation began.**
- Keep containers in an area designated for chemical or hazardous waste storage.
- Keep containers in good condition.
- Keep containers closed at all times, except when adding or removing waste.
- Retain records or receipts showing the date and volume of hazardous waste shipments for five years. However, DEC recommends that you keep these records for the lifetime of your business.

For additional information about hazardous waste, call DEC's Small Quantity Generator Hotline at 800-462-6553 or the Pollution Prevention Unit at 518-402-9469.

Spill and Emergency Response

The requirements in Part 232 regarding emergency response address the possibility of a perc release or spill within the drycleaning facility. All drycleaning facilities must ensure that a perc release is contained and does not migrate into sewer systems or groundwater. For facilities with existing (prior to May 15, 1997) drycleaning machines, you must:

- seal floor drains and flooring in the vicinity of the drycleaning machine so that they are impermeable to spills, **or**
- place temporary dikes, berms, and containment devices in areas where spills are most likely to occur, and establish and follow procedures for preventing a spill from migrating.

When you install a new drycleaning machine, you must install a spill containment pan under the machine. This containment system must be capable of holding 125% of the capacity of the largest perc tank or vessel that is part of the drycleaning machine.

If perc is released, you must take all reasonable measures to contain the release, including (where applicable):

- stopping processes and operations; and
- increasing room exhaust ventilation; and
- collecting and containing released perc in well-maintained containers.



In the event of an uncontrollable release of perc or a fire, notify DEC and the appropriate emergency response agencies immediately. Record any emergency response action as part of the routine recordkeeping at the facility.

At a minimum, record the following:

- the date, duration, and nature of any malfunction, spill, or incident of the drycleaning system; and
- the notification procedures; and
- the corrective actions taken.

Perc-Contaminated Wastewater Management

All drycleaning facilities are responsible for managing their perc-contaminated wastewater. Facilities have three options:

1. treating and evaporating the wastewater;
2. shipping it offsite as hazardous waste, or
3. treating and discharging the wastewater to a sewer system.

Evaporating Perc-contaminated Wastewater

If you evaporate your perc-contaminated wastewater, you must first treat it by physical separation (water separator) and double carbon filtration. Most wastewater treatment units employ a separator and activated carbon cartridges or replaceable carbon beds to reduce the concentration of perc and other organic chemicals in the wastewater. After the wastewater has passed through the two stages of treatment, most units evaporate the treated water to the atmosphere either by using heat to vaporize the water or by atomizing/misting with a fine spray nozzle.

Discharging to Sewer System

Treat perc-contaminated wastewater that is to be discharged to a sewer system by physical separation (water separator) and double carbon filtration, or with an equivalent control that has been approved by DEC. The treatment system must be designed and operated to produce wastewater that:

- is less than or equal to 20 parts per billion (ppb) perc without perc evaporation, and
- conforms to local sewer use ordinances, which may require additional pre-treatment. **Contact your local water treatment facility for their specific requirements.**

Important Things to Remember:

1. Make sure that the wastewater is carefully decanted from the water separator on the drycleaning machine. To make sure that no perc gets carried over, stop decanting well before you reach the water/solvent interface or line of separation.
2. Learn how to properly operate the wastewater treatment unit, maintain the unit according to manufacturer's directions, and keep good records on maintenance and carbon replacement.
3. **NEVER** pour untreated, unfiltered wastewater down the drain or toilet. This would be a serious violation and would result in heavy fines and enforcement by the DEC.

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

NYS ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES CORPORATION

625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207-2997

1-800-780-7227 / 518-402-7461

sbeap@efc.ny.gov



**Environmental
Facilities Corporation**