
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

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Management of Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes

Wipes, rags, swabs and towels contaminated with solvents are a common industrial waste stream that when properly managed typically pose less threat than many other hazardous wastes; therefore, New Hampshire has taken steps to lessen the regulatory burden on facilities that are managing these waste streams. This fact sheet outlines exemptions for solvent-contaminated wipes. It replaces New Hampshire's previous policy on "Contaminated Cloth Wipes for Laundering" and expands it to include wipes that are destined for disposal. New Hampshire has adopted EPA's solvent-contaminated wipes regulation; as such solvent-contaminated wipes that meet the criteria and management standards in NH Administrative Rules Env-Hw 401.03 shall be exempt from regulation under the hazardous waste rules.

These exemptions apply only to solvent-contaminated wipes used in a cleaning or degreasing process, which is defined as used to remove oil or other contaminants from machinery, equipment, work stations, or product components; or for cleanup of solvent spills of less than 12 fluid ounces. A wipe is defined as a woven or non-woven shop towel, rag, pad, or swab made of wood pulp, fabric, cotton, polyester blends or other material. The term "wipe" does NOT include gloves, absorbent mats or uniforms. For the purpose of these exemptions, a "solvent-contaminated wipe" is one that meets one or more of the following conditions:

1. It contains used solvent that meets the definition of a F001 through F005 listed hazardous waste.
2. It contains an unused P- or U-listed solvent that is also a chemical identified in the F001 through F005 listings. These include the following:

Acetone	Ethyl acetate	Methylene chloride
Benzene	Ethyl Benzene	Tetrachloroethylene/ Perchloroethylene (PCE)
n-Butanol/n-Butyl alcohol	2-Ethoxyethanol	Toluene
Chlorobenzene	Isobutyl alcohol/Isobutanol	1,1,2-Trichloroethane
Cresols/Cresylic acid	Methanol	Trichloroethylene (TCE)
Cyclohexanone	Methyl ethyl ketone (MEK)	Xylenes
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	Methyl Isobutyl ketone (MIBK)	

3. It meets the hazardous waste characteristic of ignitability or toxicity, due ONLY to the presence of solvents found in the P, U, or F001 through F005 listings as described above.

4. It is not a listed waste, but is ignitable, due ONLY to the presence of any chemical used as a solvent, and does not exhibit any other hazardous characteristics.

If the solvent-contaminated wipe is hazardous because it contains any other listed hazardous waste, or exhibits a hazardous characteristic because of the presence of other contaminants, the exemption does not apply. For example, if a solvent-contaminated wipe is also hazardous because it contains lead contamination from the cleaning or degreasing process, it is not exempt and must be managed as hazardous waste.

The exemption at Env-Hw 401.03(a)(11) applies to solvent-contaminated wipes that will be laundered. The exemption at Env-Hw 401.03(b)(28) applies to solvent-contaminated wipes that will be disposed of.

The following requirements apply to ALL facilities managing solvent-contaminated wipes:

1. The solvent-contaminated wipes, as well as the container used to accumulate the solvent-contaminated wipes, must contain only those solvents absorbed during use in a cleaning or degreasing process, or in the cleanup of spills of less than 12 fluid ounces.
2. Free liquids removed from solvent-contaminated wipes or from the container holding the solvent-contaminated wipes must be segregated and managed as hazardous waste.
3. Solvent-contaminated wipes must be stored onsite for no more than 180 days from the date accumulation began.
4. Solvent-contaminated wipes must be stored and transported in closed, non-leaking containers that are able to contain free liquids.
5. Containers of solvent-contaminated wipes must be marked with the words "Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes."
6. Once the container is full and ready to be removed and transported, the solvent-contaminated wipes container must be closed and sealed to prevent leaks and emissions.
7. The solvent-contaminated wipes must contain no free liquids as determined by the paint filters test, method 9095B, at the time they will be laundered onsite or sent offsite for cleaning or disposal.
8. The generator of the solvent-contaminated wipes must maintain at its site the following documentation:
 - a. The name and address of the laundry, dry cleaner, or disposal facility that is receiving the solvent-contaminated wipes.
 - b. That the solvent-contaminated wipes have been accumulated for no more than 180 days.
 - c. A written description of the process the generator used to ensure that the solvent-contaminated wipes contain no free liquids when cleaned onsite or when transported offsite for cleaning or disposal.

The following requirements apply to solvent-contaminated wipes that are destined to be laundered:

1. The solvent-contaminated wipes may only be laundered or dry-cleaned onsite or offsite at a facility that is regulated under Sections 301 and 402 or section 307 of the Clean Water Act and is located in New Hampshire or in a state that has adopted the exemption found at 40 CFR 261.4(a)(26).

The following requirements apply to solvent-contaminated wipes that are destined for disposal:

1. The solvent-contaminated wipes for disposal cannot contain trichloroethylene (TCE).
2. The solvent-contaminated wipes cannot be disposed of in a New Hampshire municipal solid waste landfill. They may only be disposed of in New Hampshire at a municipal waste combustor or other combustion facility that is regulated under Section 129 of the Clean Air Act or at the following facilities:
 - a. A municipal solid waste landfill that is regulated under 40 CFR 258 and located in a state that has adopted the exclusion found at 40 CFR 261.4(b)(18);
 - b. A municipal waste combustor or other combustion facility that is regulated under Section 129 of the Clean Air Act and located in a state that has adopted the exclusion found at 40 CFR 261.4(b)(18);
 - c. A hazardous waste combustor, boiler or industrial furnace that is regulated under 40 CFR 264, 265, or 266 Subpart H; or
 - d. A hazardous waste landfill that is regulated under 40 CFR 264 or 265.

Some solvent-contaminated wipes may be managed as solid waste and less stringently than the guidance in this fact sheet, if they are only hazardous due to being listed for ignitability (such as the F003 listed solvents) and no longer exhibit the characteristic of ignitability at the point they are generated. Please refer to the exemption found in Env-Hw 401.03(f) and the ignitability characteristic criteria found in Env-Hw 403.03(b)(2) for further guidance.

For more information

Questions regarding this fact sheet should be directed to the NHDES Waste Management Division at [\(603\) 271-2942](tel:6032712942) or toll-free within New Hampshire at [1-866-HAZWAST](tel:1866HAZWAST). For a complete description of the requirements, refer to the New Hampshire Hazardous Waste Rules, Env-Hw 100-1200, available from [NHDES' website](#).