

# The Management of Solvent Contaminated Rags and Wipes

**THIS POLICY DOES NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW**

**Hazardous Waste**

*This Guidance supersedes all previous guidance of solvent contaminated wipes, because Ohio has adopted the Federal Regulations*

## What is the Purpose of this Guidance?

On July 31, 2013, the US EPA published the Final Rules titled “Conditional Exclusion from Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste for Solvent Contaminated Wipes. The Federal rule became effective on January 31, 2014. As of October 31, 2015 Ohio adopted the federal rule into the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). No free liquids, solvent contaminated wipes and wipes are defined in OAC rule [3745-50-10](#) (88), (118) and (159). The exclusions for wipes can be found in OAC rules, [3745-51-04\(A\)\(26\)](#) and (B)(18). Ohio’s rule is now identical to the Federal Regulations on the management of solvent contaminated wipes.



## Background

Wipes, which means a woven or non-woven shop towel, rag, pad, or swab made of wood pulp, fabric, cotton, polyester blends, or other material, are used by many businesses in conjunction with solvents as part of the cleaning process. These wipes are then either cleaned and reused (reusable wipes) or sent for disposal (disposable wipes). Under the Solvent-Contaminated Wipes rule, reusable and disposable wipes are excluded from regulation under Ohio’s hazardous waste rules when certain conditions are met. Generators who fail to follow the requirements of this rule will lose the conditional exclusions from the definition of solid waste or hazardous waste, and may become subject to the full requirements of the solid and hazardous waste regulations. The conditions which a generator must meet are outlined below.

## WHAT SOLVENTS CONTAMINATED WIPES ARE COVERED BY THIS EXCLUSION?

Wipes that contain one or more F001-F005 listed solvents listed in OAC rule [3745-51-31](#) or the corresponding P- or U-listed solvents. The solvents found in OAC rule [3745-51-31](#), including:

Acetone	Methyl isobutyl ketone	Toluene
Benzene	Ethyl acetate	Methylene chloride
n-Butanol	1,1,2- Trichloroethane	Xylenes
Chlorobenzene	Ethyl benzene	Trichloroethylene *
Creosols	2-Ethoxyethanol	(*For reusable wipes being laundered only.)
Cyclohexanone	Isobutyl alcohol	
Tetrachloroethylene	Methanol	
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	Methyl ethyl ketone	

- Wipes that exhibit a ***hazardous characteristic*** resulting from a solvent listed in OAC [3745-51-20 to 3745-51-24](#) when that characteristic results from an F001- F005 solvent listed in OAC rule [3745-51-31](#)
- Wipes that exhibit only the hazardous characteristic of ignitability when containing one or more non-listed in [OAC 3745-51-33](#).

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## THE EXCLUSIONS FOR DISPOSAL OR LAUNDERING OF SOLVENT CONTAMINATED WIPES DONOT INCLUDE:

- Wipes that contain *listed hazardous waste* other than solvents
- Wipes that exhibit the *characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity* due to non-listed solvents or contaminants other than solvents. This includes wipes that exhibit the characteristic of toxicity for heavy metals.

## DOES A LAUNDRY NEED A HAZAROUS WASTE PERMIT TO STORE WIPES THAT ARE HAZAROUS WASTE THAT DO NOT MEET THE DEFINITION OF SOLVENT CONTAMINATED WIPES?

Because this new exclusion replaces previous guidance on laundered wipes, a laundry storing wipes that are hazardous for any reason except for the constituents listed above must have a hazardous waste permit for the storage of hazardous waste wipes prior to putting them into the laundering process. The laundry has the option to meet the provisions *in OAC rule 3745-51-06(C)(2)* for a laundry that does not store hazardous waste wipes before they are placed into the laundering equipment. They also have the option to meet OAC rule *3745-51-06(C)(3)* for a laundry that stores hazardous waste wipes for up to 72 hours in accordance with the requirements of this rule. These wipes should have been shipped to the laundry using a hazardous waste manifest.

## LAUNDERING OF SOLVENT CONTAMINATED WIPES

(Solid Waste Exclusion) *OAC 3745-51-04(A)(26)*

Solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for cleaning and reuse are not solid wastes provided the following conditions of the exclusion are met:

CONDITION 1: Specifically, the wipes, when accumulated, stored, and transported, must be contained in containers that are:

Closed; non-leaking; and capable of holding free liquids

A plastic can liner will qualify as a container provided it meets the three conditions listed above.

CONDITION 2: LABELING: Containers must be labeled “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes.”

CONDITION 3: A 180-day accumulation limit from the moment a wipe is first placed into the container. There are various methods to document that the 180-day accumulation is being met, such as a label with a date, an established schedule for pickups, a log of container dates, etc.

CONDITION 4: Must not contain free liquids at the point they are sent off-site. “Free liquids” are defined in OAC *3745-50-10* (A)(51) No free liquids” is defined OAC *3745-50-10* (A)(88) and is based on the EPA methods test *9095B (paint filter liquids test)* or other authorized state standard.

CONDITION 5: Free liquids must be managed according to hazardous waste rules

CONDITION 6: Maintain the Required Documentation

- Name and address of the laundry or dry cleaner.
- Documentation that the 180-day accumulation time limit is being met.
- Description of the process the generator is using to meet the “no free liquids” condition.

CONDITION 7: The Laundry or dry cleaners’ discharge is regulated under *Clean Water Act*

Excluded  
Solvent  
Contaminated  
Wipes  
Accumulation  
Start Date: \*  
*\*(This is One  
option)*

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## DISPOSAL OF SOLVENT CONTAMINATED WIPES

(Hazardous Waste Exemption) **OAC 3745-51-04(B) (18)**

Solvent-contaminated wipes, except for wipes that are hazardous waste due to the presence of trichloroethylene, that are sent for disposal are not hazardous wastes from the point of generation provided the following conditions are met:

CONDITION 1: The wipes, when accumulated, stored, and transported, must be contained in containers that are: Closed; non-leaking; and capable of holding free liquids.

A plastic can liner will qualify as a container provided it meets the three conditions listed above.

CONDITION 2: Labeling: Containers must be labeled “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes”

CONDITION 3: A 180-day accumulation limit from the moment a wipe is first placed into the container.

CONDITION 4: Must not contain free liquids at the point they are sent off-site. “Free liquids” are defined in OAC **3745-50-10** (A)(51) No free liquids” is defined OAC **3745-50-10** (A)(88) and is based on the EPA methods test **9095B (paint filter liquids test)** or other authorized state standard.

CONDITION 5: Free liquids must be managed according to hazardous waste rules.

CONDITION 6: Documentation required

- Name and address of landfill or combustion facility
- Documentation of 180-day limit is met
- Description of process used to ensure no free liquids are present.

CONDITION 7: It is disposed in one of the following:

- **Municipal Waste** or Industrial Waste Landfill that is permitted, licensed or otherwise authorized by Ohio and meets the requirements of rule **3745-27-08** or **3745-29-08** of the Administrative Code; or
- Is permitted, licensed, or otherwise authorized by another state that has this exemption; or
- Disposal in a permitted **hazardous waste** landfill; or
- A Municipal Waste Combustor regulated under Section 129 of the Clean Air Act or
- A **Hazardous Waste Combustor, Boiler, or Industrial Furnace** regulated under OAC rules 3745-57, 68 or 266.

## THE EXEMPTION FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SOLVENT CONTAMINATED WIPES DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than F001 to F005 solvents.
- Wipes that exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity due to non-listed solvents or contaminants other than solvents.
- Wipes that are hazardous waste due to the presence of trichloroethylene (TCE)

# The Management of Solvent Contaminated Rags and Wipes

**WIPES CONTAMINATED WITH USED OIL ONLY** (are not covered by the exclusion for laundering or the exemption for disposal)

Rags containing or otherwise contaminated with used oil are regulated under the used oil rules if the used oil has not been removed by a physical separation process (wringing or centrifuging). If the rags have been drained or otherwise had the used oil removed from them and there are no visible signs of free flowing used oil, they are waste that must be *evaluated* to determine if they are or are not a hazardous waste.

## **CAN WIPES CONTAMINATED WITH OIL BE MANAGED UNDER THE RULE?**

A wipe that is contaminated with solvent may also be co-contaminated with oil and be eligible for the final rule as long as: (1) the oil is not listed hazardous waste and (2) the wipe only exhibits the characteristic of ignitability (and thus does not exhibit the characteristic of corrosivity, toxicity, or reactivity).

### **Contact**

For more information, contact the Hazardous Waste Compliance and Inspection Support Unit of the *Division of Materials and Waste Management* at 614-644-2621.