

The Management of Solvent-Contaminated Wipes and Other Textiles Laundered for Reuse.

THIS POLICY DOES NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW

Hazardous Waste Program

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

Background

On October 31, 2015 Ohio adopted the federal rule titled “*Conditional Exclusion from Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste for Solvent-contaminated Wipes*” into the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). There are two conditional exclusions in the rules for solvent-contaminated wipes. These exclusions are for solvent-contaminated wipes that are laundered and for wipes that are disposed in a permitted licensed sanitary landfill, a permitted hazardous waste landfill or a municipal waste combustor. The first exclusion is found in OAC rule, [3745-51-04\(A\)\(26\)](#) for laundering and the other exclusion is found in OAC rule [3745-51-04\(B\)\(18\)](#) for disposal. Ohio’s rule is now equivalent to the **Federal Regulations** on the management of solvent-contaminated wipes.



What are solvent-contaminated wipes?

Wipes are defined as woven or non-woven shop towels, rags, pads or swabs made of wood pulp, fabric, polyester blends, or other material. Solvent-contaminated wipes are wipes that are contaminated after use or after cleaning up a spill with those solvents listed in OAC rule 3745-51-31 or the corresponding commercial chemical product listed in 3745-51-33, or that exhibit a characteristic from a listed solvent, or are only ignitable. Wipes that exhibit a characteristic that is not associated with the listed solvents or that contain a listed waste other than those listed below are not covered under the exclusions for solvent-contaminated wipes. Hazardous textiles are now regulated per OAC rule 3745-51-06 (A)(3)(e) as discussed on page 4.

What solvent-contaminated wipes are covered by the exclusion?

As described above, the three types of solvent-contaminated wipes covered by the exclusions include:

- Solvent-contaminated wipes that contain one or more F001-F005 solvents listed in OAC rule [3745-51-31](#) or the corresponding P- or U- listed solvents found in OAC rule [3745-51-33](#) are covered by the exclusions. The solvents found in OAC rule [3745-51-31](#), include:

Acetone	Ethyl acetate	Xylenes
Benzene	1,1,2- Trichloroethane	Trichloroethylene *
n-Butanol	Ethyl benzene	(*Only for wipes that are laundered and reused. Wipes contaminated with this solvent are not eligible for the solid waste disposal option.)
Chlorobenzene	2-Ethoxyethanol	
Creosols	Isobutyl alcohol	
Cyclohexanone	Methanol	
Tetrachloroethylene	Methyl ethyl ketone	
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	Toluene	
Methyl isobutyl ketone	Methylene chloride	

- Wipes that exhibit an *ignitable* or *toxic* hazardous characteristic resulting from a solvent listed above.
- Solvent-contaminated wipes that exhibit only the hazardous characteristic (before or after use) of ignitability when containing one or more solvents that are not listed in OAC rule [3745-51-31](#). (example; mineral spirits)

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The F001 - F005 spent solvent listing, covers only solvents that are used for their solvent properties, that is, to solubilize (dissolve) or mobilize other constituents. For example, solvents would have had to be used in degreasing, cleaning, fabric scouring, as diluents (except when used in a product such as paint), extractants, reaction and synthesis media, and similar uses. A solvent is considered 'spent' when it has been used and is no longer fit for use without being regenerated, reclaimed, or otherwise reprocessed.

Disposal of solvent-contaminated wipes (TCE not included)

(Hazardous Waste Exclusion) Under the Solvent-Contaminated Wipes rule *OAC rule 3745-51-04(B)(18)*: Solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for disposal are not hazardous wastes from the point of generation provided the generator meets the following conditions of the exclusion:

CONDITION 1: The solvent-contaminated wipes, when accumulated, stored, and transported, must be held 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 rule *3745-50-10* (F)(6), "No free liquids" is defined in OAC rule *3745-50-10* (N)(2) 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 that the 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 exclusion; 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 exclusion for the disposal of solvent-contaminated wipes does not include:

- Solvent-contaminated wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than F001 to F005 solvents.
- Solvent-contaminated wipes that exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity due to non-listed solvents or contaminants other than solvents.

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- Solvent-contaminated wipes that are hazardous waste due to the presence of **trichloroethylene** (TCE).

Laundering of solvent-contaminated wipes

(Solid Waste Exclusion) Under the Solvent-Contaminated Wipes rule **OAC rule 3745-51-04(A)(26)**: Solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for cleaning and reuse are not solid wastes provided the generator and laundry meet the following conditions of the exclusion:

CONDITION 1: The solvent-contaminated wipes, when accumulated, stored, and transported, must be held 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: 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 rule **3745-50-10** (F)(6), “No free liquids” is defined in OAC rule **3745-50-10** (N)(2) 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 the laundry or dry cleaner.
- Documentation that the 180-day limit is met.
- Description of process used to ensure no free liquids are present.

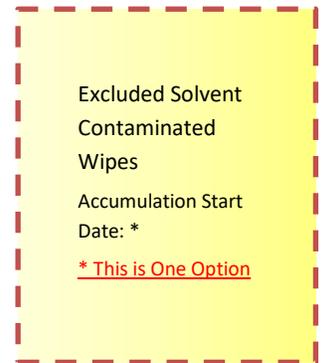
CONDITION 7: The laundry or dry cleaners’ discharge is regulated under **Clean Water Act**

The exclusion for laundering of solvent-contaminated wipes does not include:

- Solvent-contaminated wipes that contain **listed hazardous waste** other than solvents.
- Solvent-contaminated wipes that exhibit the **characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity** that is not attributed to the solvent used. (ex: A wipe that also exhibit the characteristic of toxicity for any of the 8 RCRA metals.)

What does this exclusion mean for a laundry?

The laundry must ensure that any free liquids received in containers of excluded solvent-contaminated wipes are properly evaluated per **OAC rule 3745-52-11** and managed accordingly.



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Does a laundry need a hazardous waste permit to store solvent-contaminated wipes that are hazardous waste that do not meet the definition of solvent-contaminated wipes?

If they are handling contaminated wipes that do not meet the definition of solvent-contaminated wipes, and are other hazardous waste textiles (gloves, aprons, etc.) they will not need a permit, provided the wipes are laundered and returned to use, and they are able to meet the criteria for the conditional exemption for hazardous waste textiles that are laundered and returned to use found in [OAC rule 3745-51-06](#) (A)(3)(e).

What is a hazardous textile?

These are contaminated wipes and apparel including but not limited to rags, mops, drop cloths, and apparel (e.g., gloves, uniforms, smocks, and coveralls). They are made of woven or unwoven; natural or synthetic materials (e.g., fabric, leather, or rubberlike material). These textiles exhibit a characteristic of hazardous waste or are otherwise contaminated with hazardous waste as defined in rule 3745-51-03 of the Administrative Code. Because many of these textiles are intended to be cleaned on-site or sent to a laundry or other cleaning facility for cleaning, they may be exempt from the hazardous waste regulations provided the generator meets all of the conditions of the exemption.

What are the conditions for the textile exclusion?

- Contaminated wipes and apparel are accumulated, stored and transported in non-leaking, closed containers capable of containing free liquids.
- Contaminated wipes and apparel are not burned for energy recovery.
- Contaminated wipes and apparel are NOT REGULATED by the solvent-contaminates wipes rule.
- No hazardous waste is mixed with the contaminated wipes and apparel.
- Container accumulation textiles contain no "free liquids."
- Develop and implement a written procedure to ensure that the wipes and apparel contain no free liquids.
- Contaminated wipes and apparel are cleaned on-site or sent to an off-site laundry or cleaning facility that is subject to regulation under Section 402 or Section 307(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Note: This is a summary of the conditions for the textile exemption. Please see [OAC rule 3745-51-06](#) (A)(3)(e) for a full understanding of each of the conditions of this exemption. (All the conditions must be met.)

Wipes contaminated with used oil only (Not covered by the other exclusions for laundering or disposal.)

Wipes 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 used oil-contaminated wipes 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 a hazardous waste.

Can solvent wipes contaminated with oil be managed under the rule?

A wipe that is contaminated with solvent may also be co-contaminated with oil and eligible for the final rule if:

- (1) The oil is not listed hazardous waste; and
- (2) The wipe only exhibits the characteristic of ignitability (Not the characteristic of corrosivity, toxicity, or reactivity).

Contact

For more information, contact the Hazardous Waste Compliance Assurance Section of the [Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization](#) at 614-644-2924.