

Best Management Practices for Dry-cleaning Facilities
Reduce the risk of ground and groundwater contamination

- Maintain the integrity of all equipment. Ensure that all equipment is up-to-date.
- Seal floor drains and use solvent-resistant floor coatings in areas where spills are most likely to occur. Perchloroethylene (Perc, also known as Tetrachloroethylene) can easily pass through concrete.
- Use secondary containment to store your raw and waste materials to prevent the leakage of Perc.
- Remove muck, used carbon filters, and other waste from your equipment using a solvent resistant material to collect it. It then can be readily placed in the appropriate storage drum.
- Consider alternatives to the discharge of Perc-containing material to the sanitary sewer. Many sanitary sewers crack, break, or misalign over time, increasing the chance of a leak to the environment.
- Inspect containers frequently to prevent the risk of leaks and spills. They should be closed and labeled.
- Store all raw and waste materials indoors under controlled conditions.
- Apply rags, towels, or other absorbent material at the first sign of a spill or leak. Place the used material in a drum for disposal. It is possible they may be cleaned and reused.
- Evaporate water. If this option is considered, the wastewater treatment unit must be operated and maintained under certain conditions.
 - Treat separator water using activated carbon or equivalent media to reduce the Perc concentration to less than 0.7 ppm prior to evaporation.
 - Obtain documentation from the manufacturer to verify a concentration less than 0.7 ppm.
 - Close the unit after pouring a certain amount of separator water into the unit.
 - Maintain an operating log to serve as a reminder when to replace the media (gallons or time). Neglecting filter replacement increases the risk of contaminating air, soil & groundwater.
 - Review and maintain a copy of the operating and maintenance instructions provided by the manufacturer.
 - Any media removed from the unit is hazardous waste and should be placed in a storage drum.
 - Consider using a unit with a high level Perc sensor. Separator water triggering a high level alarm can be introduced into the still to reclaim Perc.

- For more information:
 - <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp.asp?id=265&tid=48>
 - <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/perc.html>

White Paper on Perchloroethylene, Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance, November 2008.
Evaporation of Separator Water, International Fabricare Institute. Regulatory & Legislative Bulletin, 1994.