

Potential Environmental and Regulatory Liabilities at Dry Cleaning and Laundry Facilities

The most common environmental and regulatory exposures encountered at dry cleaning and laundry facilities include:

- Solvents pose a health risk through dermal and other routes.
- Improper use and storage of organic cleaning solvents.
- Wastewater discharges from industrial laundries may contain a wide variety of contaminants from the industries serviced.
- Solvent emissions infringing urban areas.
- Improperly managed tanks used to store dry cleaning fluids.
- Solvent-laden air and dryer exhaust vented to the atmosphere.
- Chlorinated solvents, when exposed to fire, can decompose into hazardous products such as phosgene and carbon monoxide.
- Small volumes of hazardous waste require handling and disposal.
- Floor drains convey spills/leaks of solvents to the sewers.
- Direct exposure to the general public.
- Complacent attitude by management about environmental liabilities.
- Odors creating nuisance conditions in the neighborhood.
- Poor housekeeping practices.
- Inadequate employee safety and medical surveillance programs.
- Absent or inadequate emergency and spill control plans.
- No auditing of hazardous waste disposal contractors.
- Information unavailable on where ALL floor drains discharge.

This is not an exhaustive list of environmental exposures. It represents the most common environmental exposures for this industry. Tina Brazier will work with you to identify environmental exposures that are unique to your business to help you reduce risk.

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