



Guidelines for Management of Solvent wipes and Oily Rags

Proper Waste Management of Solvent-Contaminated Wipes and Oily Rags

Solvent-contaminated wipes, Oily rags, and debris are often generated during equipment cleaning and maintenance activities conducted in research laboratories, facilities, and clinical settings. Wipes that have been in contact with certain solvents and listed chemicals are considered hazardous waste and must be managed appropriately.

Solvent Wipes and Oily Rags Regulated as Hazardous Waste

The following wipes must be collected by EH&S Hazardous Waste Management.

- Wipes contaminated with:
 - Heavy metals
 - PCBs
 - Oil
- Wipes used to clean up spills of:
 - ["P" listed commercial chemical product](#) or ["U" listed commercial chemical product"](#)
 - Hazardous waste
- Wipes that have been in contact with:
 - An ignitable or toxic solvent (other than F-listed) where the solvent has not been consumed in the process
 - The following F-listed solvents or chemicals:

Halogenated Solvents

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Tetrachloroethylene | • Carbon Tetrachloride | • Ortho-dichlorobenzene |
| • Trichloroethylene | • Chlorinated Fluorocarbons | • Trichlorofluoromethane |
| • Methylene Chloride | • Chlorobenzene | • 1,1,2-trichloroethane |
| • 1,1,1-trichloroethane | | |

Non-Halogenated Solvents

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| • Xylene | • Cyclohexanone | • Carbon Disulfide |
| • Acetone | • Methanol | • Isobutanol |
| • Ethyl Acetate | • Cresols & Cresylic Acid | • Pyridine |
| • Ethyl Benzene | • Nitrobenzene | • Benzene |
| • Ethyl Ether | • Toluene | • 2-ethoxyethanol |
| • Methyl Isobutyl Ketone | • Methyl Ethyl Ketone | • 2-nitropropane |
| • n-Butyl Alcohol | | |

Storage and Disposal

- Collection: Rags and towels contaminated with solvents or oil must be stored in a hazardous waste labeled safety non-combustible can, and remain closed.
- Disposal: must be disposed of as hazardous waste through EH&S.





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