Solvent Contaminated Wipers (Rags)

Rag users are required to conduct a written Pollution Prevention Analysis by assessing chemicals used in their areas that come in contact with rags or wipes and explore less toxic alternatives that would not cause rags or wipes to become hazardous waste.

At a minimum, the following alternatives must be explored:

1. Physical methods to clean including (brushing, vacuuming, and dry wiping),
2. Alternative non-hazardous chemicals including steam or water, and
3. Alternative non-F-listed chemicals.

For tasks where it is impractical to eliminate hazardous waste components, contaminated rags must be collected in a closed SAA container labeled with the words "Hazardous Waste", lined with a compatible liner (such as a clear plastic bag). The label must list the date waste rags are first added to the container and all contaminate(s) (or potential contaminate(s) of the rags).

THE FOLLOWING RAGS ARE HAZARDOUS WASTE:

Rags which come in contact with any of the following F-listed solvents are hazardous waste and should be eliminated wherever practicable using alternative methods:

- acetone
- benzene
- n-butyl alcohol
- carbon disulfide
- carbon tetrachloride
- chlorinated fluorocarbons
- chlorobenzene
- cresols and cresylic acid
- cyclohexanone
- o-dichlorobenzene
- 2-ethoxyethanol
- ethyl acetate
- ethyl benzene
- ethyl ether
- isobutanol
- methanol
- methyl ethyl ketone
- methyl isobutyl ketone
- methylene chloride
- nitrobenzene
- 2-nitropropane
- pyridine
- tetrachloroethylene
- toluene
- 1,1,1-trichloroethane
- 1,1,2-trichloroethane
- trichloroethylene
- trichlorofluoromethane
- 1,1,2-trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane
- xyylene

Rags that have been used with flammable solvents or corrosive liquids are hazardous wastes if they are saturated (liquid can be squeezed from the rags by ringing or other mechanical means) or if there are any free liquids in the bottom of the container.

Rags used to clean up oils that contain PCBs at or above 50 ppm are hazardous waste.

All spill clean-up materials, including rags or wipes, used to clean up a spill of hazardous materials, must be collected and managed as hazardous waste.

PICK-UP FOR DISPOSAL

Arrangements should be made for pick-up before containers are full by faxing a completed Request for Chemical Pick-Up Form to SEM. If containers become full fax pick-up form to SEM immediately (full containers must be removed within 72 hours).