

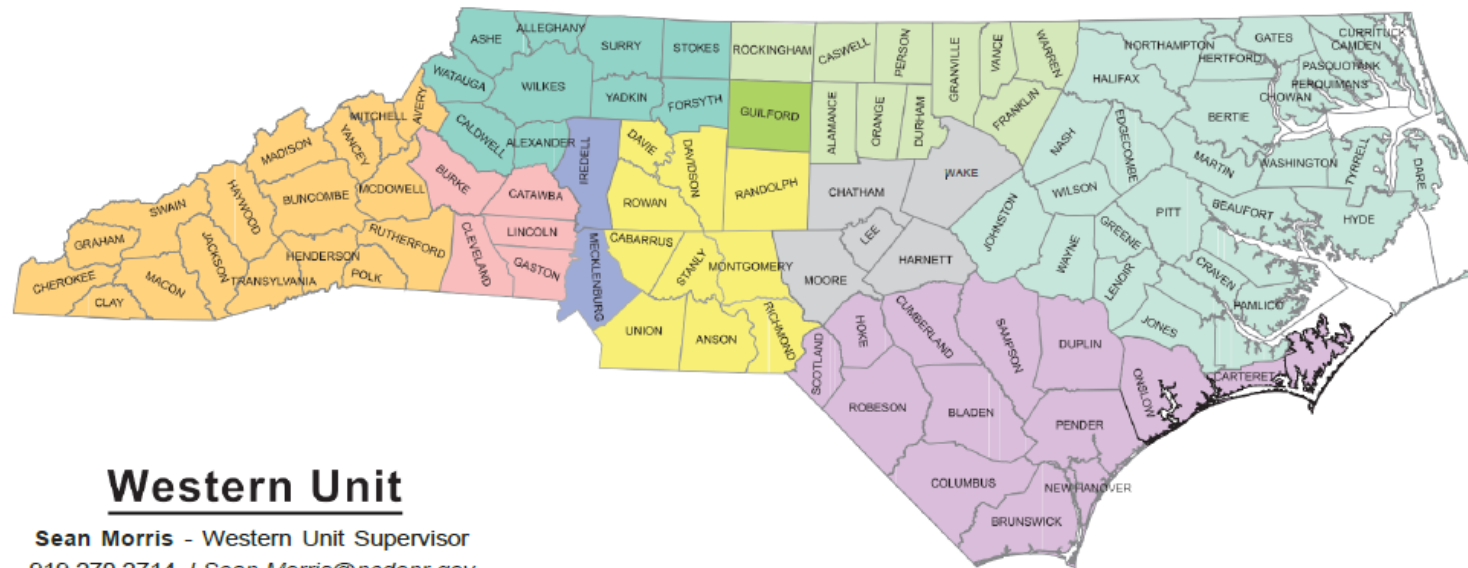


Solvent-Contaminated Wipes Exclusion



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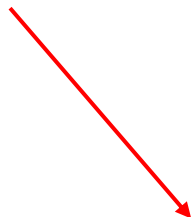
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Questions?

Contact your NCDEQ
Hazardous Waste Section
Inspector

Make sure you have
the most recent
contact information by
going to this NCDEQ
website link



https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Waste+Management/DWM/HW/Compliance/Compliance_Map_by_Inspector.pdf

Solvent-Contaminated Wipes Exclusion Overview

- Provisions of this federal rule effective in North Carolina on January 31, 2014
- Modifies RCRA hazardous waste regulations for solvent-contaminated wipes
- Updates made to 40 CFR 261.4, adopted by reference at 15A NCAC 13A .0106(a)
 - 40 CFR 261.4(a)(26) reusable wipes: conditional exclusion from the definition of solid waste
 - 40 CFR 261.4(b)(18) disposable wipes: conditional exclusion from the definition of hazardous waste



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes Exclusion Scope

- This is a conditional exclusion that applies to specific wipes managed in a specific way.
 - Waste must meet the definition of a wipe
 - Wipes can only be contaminated with specific hazardous waste
 - Wipes must be managed under specified requirements
- If the conditions are not met, the material returns to being a hazardous waste and all applicable hazardous waste requirements must be met for management/disposal of wipes.



Definitions

40 CFR 260.10

The rule provides a definition for "**wipe**" and "**solvent-contaminated wipe**" in 40 CFR 260.10

- **Wipe** means a woven or non-woven shop towel, rag, pad, or swab made of wood pulp, fabric, cotton, polyester blends, or other material
- **Solvent-Contaminated Wipe** defined in a few slides



What qualifies as a "wipe"?

Is considered a wipe:

- Paper towels
- Cloth towels
- Rags
- Absorbent pads
- Swabs (like cotton swabs)
- Pads (cotton, polyester, or other)

Is **NOT** considered a wipe:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - like gloves, masks, aprons, lab coats, chemical suits
- Uniforms
- Clothing (like coveralls)
- Mop heads, mops
- Floor mats
- Sponges
- Mattresses

See the following for information on what qualifies as a wipe:

The preamble of the [Conditional Exclusions From Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste for Solvent-Contaminated Wipes; Final Rule final rule \(78 FR 46462, July 31, 2013\)](#) and the Response to Comments ([Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-RCRA-2003-0004](#))

What happens when the waste does not qualify as a wipe?

- The exclusion is very specific and only includes items that meet the definition of a wipe.
- A waste determination (in accordance with 40 CFR 262.11) must be made on any other items that are not considered wipes.
- Do not mix any other items with wipes unless you are certain the other items are non-hazardous (or otherwise excluded).



Definitions

40 CFR 260.10

A **solvent-contaminated wipe** is a wipe that, after use or after cleaning up a spill, either:

- Contains one or more of the F001 through F005 solvents (listed in 40 CFR 261.31) or the corresponding P- or U-listed solvents (found in 40 CFR 261.33);
- Exhibits a hazardous characteristic (found in 40 CFR 261 Subpart C) when that characteristic results from a listed solvent (in 40 CFR 261); and/or
- Exhibits only the hazardous waste characteristic of ignitability (D001) (found in 40 CFR 261.21) due to the presence of one or more solvents that are not listed in 40 CFR 261.



Definitions

40 CFR 260.10

Solvent-contaminated wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than solvents, or exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity due to contaminants other than solvents, are not eligible for the exclusions at 40 CFR 261.4(a)(26) [*Reusable wipes*] and 40 CFR 261.4(b)(18) [*Disposable wipes*].



Definitions

40 CFR 260.10

A **solvent-contaminated wipe** is a wipe that, after use or after cleaning up a spill, either:

- Contains one or more of the F001 through F005 solvents (listed in 40 CFR 261.31) or the corresponding P- or U-listed solvents (found in 40 CFR 261.33);
- Exhibits a that chara (subpart C) when (61); and/or
- Exhibits only the hazardous waste characteristic of ignitability (D001) (found in 40 CFR 261.21) due to the presence of one or more solvents that are not listed in 40 CFR 261.

What does this mean??
More information on the next slide.



F001 through F005 Listed Solvents and Corresponding P and U Listed Solvents

Includes (for reusable and disposable wipes): Wipes containing one or more F001-F005 listed solvents or corresponding P- or U-listed solvents

Acetone
Benzene
n-butanol (n-butyl alcohol)
Chlorobenzene
Cresols
Cyclohexanone
1,2-Dichlorobenzene
Ethyl acetate
Ethyl benzene
2-Ethoxyethanol

Isobutyl alcohol (Isobutanol)
Methanol
Methyl ethyl ketone
Methyl isobutyl ketone
Methylene chloride
Tetrachloroethylene
Toluene
1,1,2-Trichloroethane
Xylenes

Trichloroethylene (For reusable only)



Definitions

40 CFR 260.10

A **solvent-contaminated wipe** is a wipe that, after use or after cleaning up a spill, either:

- Contains one or more of the F001 through F005 solvents (listed in 40 CFR 261.31) or the corresponding P- or U-listed solvents (found in 40 CFR 261.33);
- Exhibits a hazardous characteristic (found in 40 CFR 261 Subpart C) when that characteristic results from a listed solvent (in 40 CFR 261); and/or
- Exhibits only the hazardous waste characteristic of ignitability (D001) (found in 40 CFR 261.33) for solvents that are not listed in 40 CFR 261.33.

What does this mean??
More information on the next slide.



Exhibits a Hazardous Waste Characteristic Resulting from a Listed Solvent

Includes (for reusable and disposable wipes): Wipes exhibiting a hazardous waste characteristic when the characteristic results from a listed solvent:

Acetone

Benzene (F003 and D018)

n-butanol (n-butyl alcohol)

Chlorobenzene (F002 and D021)

Cresols (F004 and D023, D024, D025)

Cyclohexanone

1,2-Dichlorobenzene

Ethyl acetate

Ethyl benzene

2-Ethoxyethanol

Isobutyl alcohol (Isobutanol)

Methanol

Methyl ethyl ketone (F005 and D035)

Methyl isobutyl ketone

Methylene chloride

Tetrachloroethylene (F001/F002 and D039)

Toluene

1,1,2-Trichloroethane

Xylenes

Trichloroethylene (For reusable only) (F001/F002 and D040)



Definitions

40 CFR 260.10

A **solvent-contaminated wipe** is a wipe that, after use or after cleaning up a spill, either:

- Contains one or more of the F001 through F005 solvents (listed in 40 CFR 261.31) or the corresponding D- and H-listed solvents (found in 40 CFR 261.33);
- Exhibits a characteristic listed in Subpart C) when that characteristic results from a listed solvent (in 40 CFR 261); and/or
- Exhibits only the hazardous waste characteristic of ignitability (D001) (found in 40 CFR 261.21) due to the presence of one or more solvents that are not listed in 40 CFR 261.

What does this mean??
More information on the next slide.



Exhibits only the Ignitability Characteristic (D001)

- If the wipe is contaminated with a solvent that is hazardous waste only because it is ignitable, it may be managed under the solvent-contaminated wipe exclusion, however, it may be worthwhile (especially if the wipes have no free liquid) to perform a waste determination (according to 40 CFR 262.11).
- If the wipes are not ignitable, you could manage them as non-hazardous and would not have to meet the conditions of the exclusion.
- If you claim the wipe is non-hazardous, be prepared to explain why the wipes are non-hazardous.



Wipes that Do Not Qualify Exclusion

- Wipes that have not been used
- Wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than solvents
- Wipes that exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity due to non-listed solvents or contaminants other than solvents
- Wipes do not qualify for exclusion if contaminated with:
 - Corrosives
 - Reactives
 - Non-solvent TCLP materials
 - Examples: Cr, Cd, Pb, Hg, Ag
- Disposable Wipes only: cannot contain Trichloroethylene (TCE)



What happens when the waste does not qualify as a solvent-contaminated wipe?

- The exclusion is very specific and only includes items that meet the definition a solvent-contaminated wipe.
- A waste determination (in accordance with 40 CFR 262.11) must be made on wipes that are contaminated with waste other than the ones described in the definition for solvent-contaminated wipes.
- Do not mix any other items with wipes unless you are certain the other items are non-hazardous (or otherwise excluded).



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes Exclusion Scope

- Reusable industrial shop towels and rags that are contaminated with hazardous solvents and are sent for laundering are not solid waste
- Disposable industrial wipes that are contaminated with hazardous solvents and are going to disposal are not hazardous waste



Question: You have an oil spill and clean it up with absorbent wipes. Can these wipes be managed under the solvent-contaminated wipe exclusion?



Answer: No, they do not qualify for the exclusion because they are not solely contaminated with a listed or ignitable solvent. Site must determine they are non-hazardous or may be able to be manage as off-spec fuel and burn for energy recovery (if they are contaminated with a fuel).



Question:

Wipes with acetone are used to clean products before a finish is applied. Can these wipes be managed under the solvent-contaminated wipes exclusion?

Answer:

Maybe.

If the wipe is only contaminated with acetone (and does not pick up a contaminate like metals from the cleaning process) it qualifies for the exclusion as long as all conditions are met.



Question: If I am using disinfecting wipes for cleaning at my facility, can I manage them under the solvent-contaminated wipe exclusion?



Answer:

- Maybe.
- If the wipe is contaminated only with an ignitable solvent (e.g. isopropyl alcohol) that is not listed, consider performing a waste determination and managing as a non-hazardous waste.
- If the wipe is contaminated with a corrosive cleaner, the exclusion will not apply.



Disposal/Laundry Requirements

Disposable Wipes

As long as no trichloroethylene; and all conditions are met can go to:

- Regulated municipal solid waste landfill (40 CFR 258) or
- Hazardous waste landfill (40 CFR 264 or 265) or
- A combustor regulated under section 129 Clean Air Act
- Hazardous waste combustor, boiler, or industrial furnace (40 CFR 264, 265, 266)

Reusable Wipes

As long as all conditions are met can go to:

- Laundry or dry-cleaning facility
 - Any wastewater discharge must be regulated under sections 301 and 402 or 307 of the Clean Water Act
- Rule is more stringent than DEQs previous laundered wipe policy
 - Reusable wipes not covered by exclusion must be non-hazardous if laundered/dry-cleaned

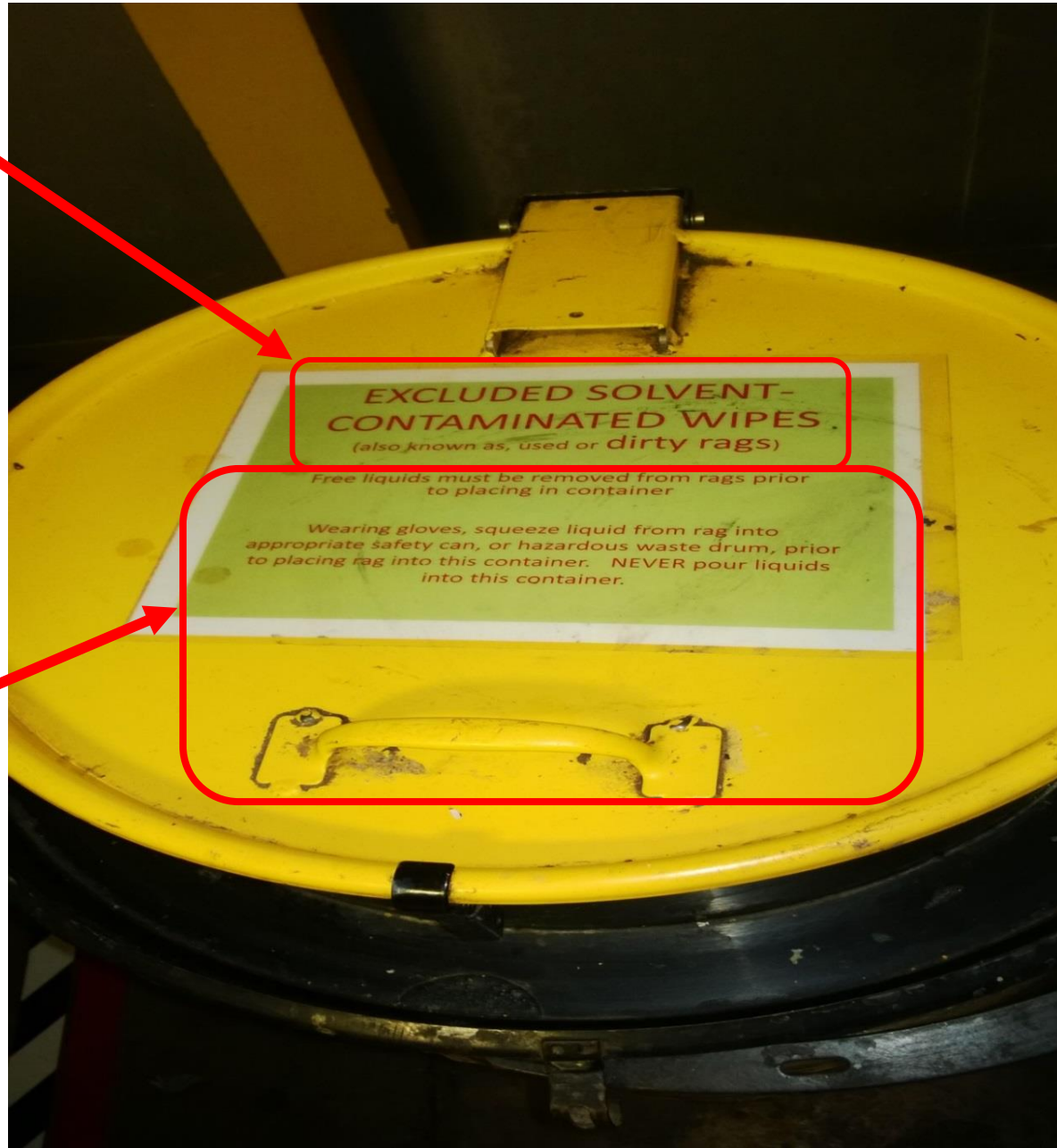
Accumulation Requirements for Exclusion

Solvent-contaminated wipes must be:

- Accumulated for no more than 180 days prior to being sent for cleaning or disposal
- Placed in a non-leaking closed container, that can contain free liquids, should they occur
- Marked "Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes"



REQUIRED



Bonus
Information
(not required)



Here are a few more examples of container labeling. The picture on the right has some extra signage to distinguish between the reusable and disposable wipes. The wipes are color coded to distinguish the difference in management. In this case, white rags are reusable and go to be laundered. The blue rags are disposed and go to an incinerator.



Although, not required, if you have several different wipe waste streams at your facility, it may be worth having a color-coded system to help with placement of the waste in the proper container. Regardless employee training is very important. The system is only as good as the employees who implement it.



These examples of container labeling would not be in compliance or be eligible for the exclusion. Additionally, the container on the right would be considered open and not in eligible for the exclusion.



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Free Liquids

- There must be no free liquids in container prior to being sent for cleaning or disposal
- Free liquids removed from the wipes or from the wipes container must be managed according to applicable hazardous waste regulations in 40 CFR parts 260 through 273
- "No free liquids" condition is defined in 40 CFR 260.10 and is based on the EPA Methods Test 9095B (Paint Filter Liquids Test)



Records Required for Exclusion

Generator must maintain documentation that includes:

- Name and address of the laundry, dry cleaner, landfill, or combustor
- Documentation that the 180-day accumulation time limit is being met
- Description of the process the generator is using to meet the "no free liquids" condition
- Documentation of claims that materials are not a solid waste or are conditionally exempt per 40 CFR 261.2(f)





Solvent-Contaminated Wipes Vendor Responsibilities



Disposal/Laundry Requirements

Disposable Wipes

As long as no Trichloroethylene; and all conditions are met can go to:

- Regulated municipal solid waste landfill (40 CFR 258) or
- Hazardous waste landfill (40 CFR 264 or 265) or
- A combustor regulated under section 129 Clean Air Act
- Hazardous waste combustor, boiler, or industrial furnace (40 CFR 264, 265, 266)

Reusable Wipes

As long as all conditions are met can go to:

- Laundry or dry-cleaning facility
 - Any wastewater discharge must be regulated under sections 301 and 402 or 307 of the Clean Water Act
- Rule is more stringent than DEQs previous laundered wipe policy
 - Reusable wipes not covered by exclusion must be non-hazardous if laundered/dry-cleaned

Requirements for Exclusion Beyond Generating Site

Solvent-contaminated wipes must be accumulated, stored, and transported in containers that are:

- Closed,
- Non-leaking and can contain free liquids, should they occur, and
- Marked/labeled "Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes"



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Free Liquids

- There must be no free liquids in container prior to being sent for cleaning or disposal
- Free liquids removed from the wipes or from the wipes container must be managed according to applicable hazardous waste regulations in 40 CFR parts 260 through 273



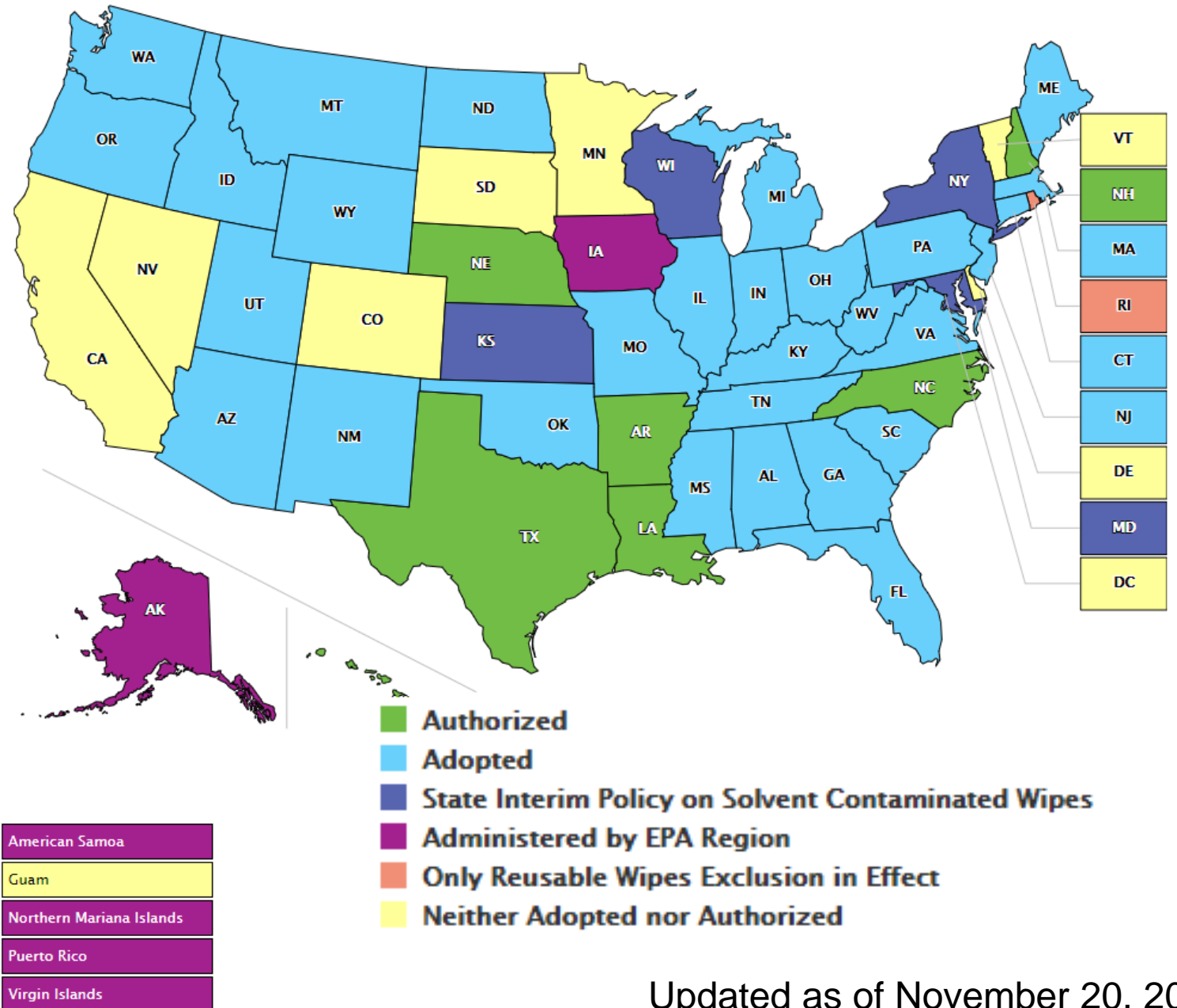
Solvent-Contaminated Wipes - Transportation

- Solvent-contaminated wipes must meet applicable U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations under 49 CFR parts 171 through 179 when they are transported.
- Solvent-contaminated wipes managed under the Wipes Rule exclusions are not considered RCRA hazardous wastes and thus, would not be considered to fall under DOT hazard class 9 (Miscellaneous Hazardous Material).



Where is the Solvent-Contaminated Wipe Rule in Effect?

- States are not required to adopt this rule.
- Some sites have indicated that they have had a problem being able to utilize the exclusion because they were using a landfill or incinerator that was in another state and that state had not adopted the exclusion yet.
- Be aware that there may some issues if you are looking to dispose of wipes (or launder them) out of state.
- Link to EPA website showing updates to state adoption map :
<https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/w-here-solvent-contaminated-wipes-final-rule-effect#01>



Implications of Vendor Violations

- The solvent-contaminated wipes exclusion is conditional.
- If the conditions are not met, the material returns to being a hazardous waste and all applicable hazardous waste requirements must be met for management/disposal of wipes.
- If the vendor mismanages the wipes and does not meet the conditions for exclusion, they could be considered an unpermitted hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facility.





Solvent-Contaminated Wipes Vendor Audit Suggestions



Visit the Laundry Facility



If the site claims to be an industrial or commercial laundry and they have the machine that is on the left.... You may need to pursue another vendor or start asking lots of questions.



Review Rules Applicable to Facility Example Checklists and Guidance Documents



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
HAZARDOUS WASTE SECTION

Summary of Solvent-Contaminated Wipes Exclusion Requirements

This table provides an overview of the solvent-contaminated wipes conditional exclusion provisions and how they apply when solvent-contaminated wipes are accumulated, stored, and transported. Solvent contaminated wipes that are sent for cleaning and reuse are not a solid waste from the point of generation provided the conditions of 40 CFR 261.4(a)(26), adopted by reference at 15A NCAC 13A .0106(a) are met. Solvent-contaminated wipes, except for wipes that are hazardous waste due to the presence of trichloroethylene, that are sent for disposal are not hazardous wastes from the point of generation provided the conditions of 40 CFR 261.4(b)(18), adopted by reference at 15A NCAC 13A .0106(a) are met. An "X" means the provision is applicable.

Regulatory Provision and Description	Solvent Contaminated Wipes Exclusion Applicability of Regulatory Provision		
	Generator	Transporter/Transfer Facility	Landfill/Incinerator/ Laundry/Dry Cleaner
Definitions: Must meet the definition of "wipe" ^{**} and "solvent-contaminated wipe" ^{***} (40 CFR 260.10)	X	X	X
Container Requirements: 40 CFR 261.4(a)(26)(i) (Reusable Wipes); 40 CFR 261.4(b)(18)(i) (Disposable Wipes) Solvent-contaminated wipes, when accumulated, stored, and transported must be placed in:	<i>This box is intentionally left blank.</i>		
- Non-leaking containers	X	X	X
- Closed containers ^{***}	X	X	X
- Container labeled "Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes"	X	X	X
- Container that can contain any free liquids ^{****} (should free liquids occur)	X	X	X
Accumulation time limit 40 CFR 261.4(a)(26)(ii) (Reusable Wipes); 40 CFR 261.4(b)(18)(ii) (Disposable Wipes)	180 days	N/A	N/A
	- At the point of being transported for		



Documentation/Information Applicable to Facility Sources of Information

- Laserfiche:
 - Public document repository for Division of Waste Management :
<https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/WasteManagement/Browse.aspx?startid=6>
 - Public document repository for Division of Water Resources:
<https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/WaterResources/>
- EPA ECHO: <https://echo.epa.gov/>
 - EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (provides information on air, water, and waste)
- RCRAInfoWeb: <https://rcrapublic.epa.gov/rcrainfoweb/action/main-menu/view>
 - EPA's public information website for electronic manifest (e-Manifest), financial assurance and other publicly accessible information



Laserfiche Tips and Guidance

For additional information about Laserfiche go to this DWM website link:

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/laserfiche>

Link to Laserfiche User Guide:

https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Water%20Resources/files/laserfiche/LaserFiche_User_Guide.pdf

Link to Laserfiche Guide to Hazardous Waste Documents:

https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Waste%20Management/DWM/HW/Laserfiche_WebLink%20instructionsHW.docx





Enforcement and Compliance History Online

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Use EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online website to search for facilities in your community to assess their compliance with environmental regulations. You can use ECHO to:

- Search for Facilities
- Investigate Pollution Sources
- Search for EPA Enforcement Cases
- Examine and Create Enforcement-Related Maps
- Analyze Trends in Compliance & Enforcement Data



[Read the Quick Start Guide](#)



[Watch a Video Tutorial](#)



[Explore the Tool Guide](#)

Hide Map Hide Table Hide Summary

Report Violation Help

Map Legend Basemap Options Zoom To: Enter city, state, and/or zip code Sync Map and Table



Facility Summary



CAA	No Violation Identified
CWA	No Violation Identified
RCRA	No Violation Identified
SDWA	

Days Since Last Inspection: 5
Date of Last Formal Enforcement Action: 03/29/2018
Last Penalty Amount: \$25,200
[More Facility Details](#)

Customize Columns Download Data Quick CSV Download Results Guide Reports Legend

Facility Name	Mapped	Street Address	City	State	FRS ID	Reports	Inspections (5 years)	Significant Violations	Quarters with Noncompliance (3 years)	Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)
130583 - ECOFLO, INC.	📍	2750 PATTERSON STREET	GREENSBORO	NC	110070339370	C	0	No	--	0
ECO FLO, INC.	📍	2750 PATTERSON ST.	GREENSBORO	NC	110000346625	C I X	373	No	5	2

Current Search

2 Facilities Found

Selected Criteria

Search Type: All Data
Facility Name or ID: ECOFLO

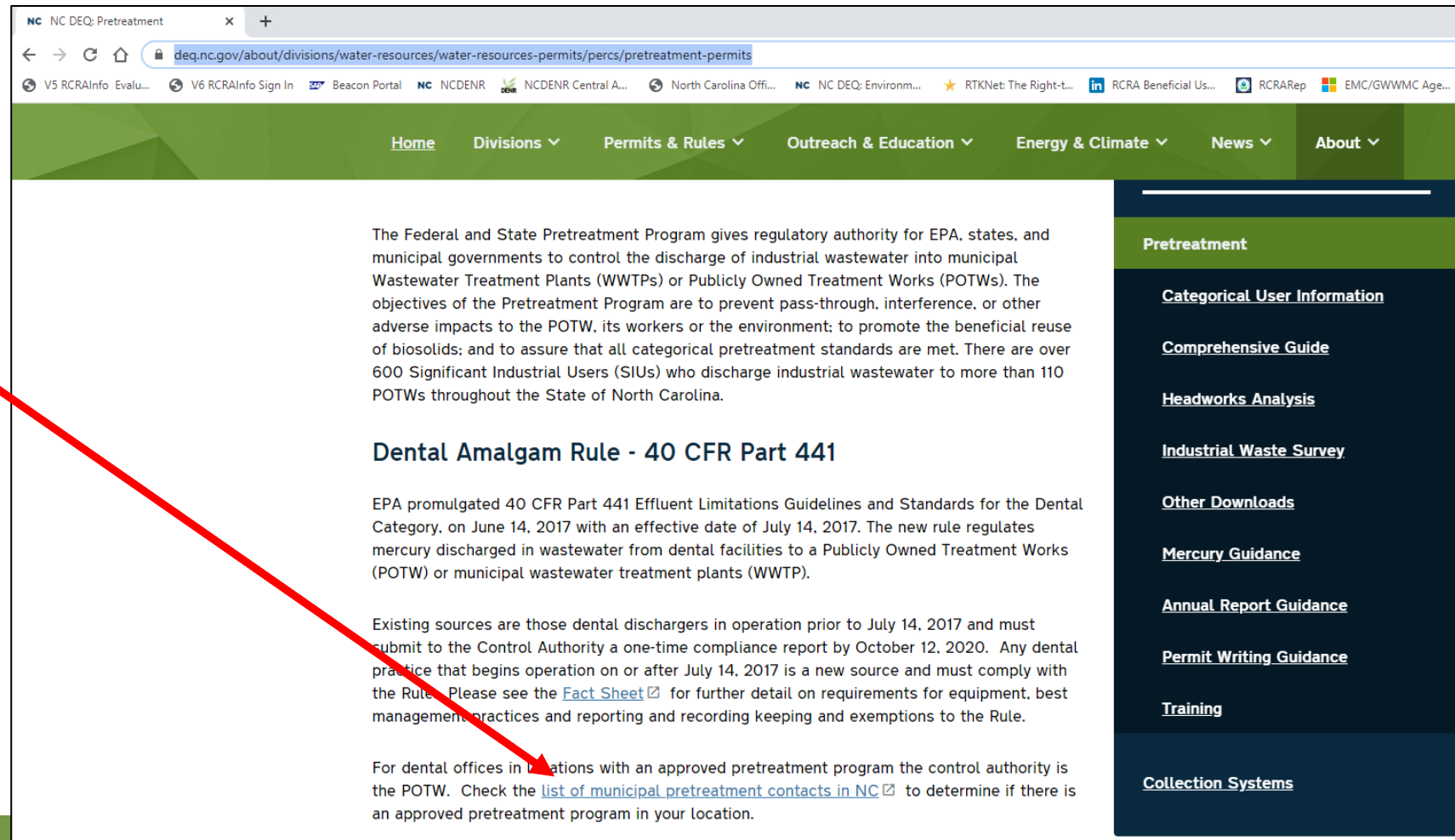
Explore Enforcement and Compliance Criteria

- 0 Facilities with Current Violations
- 0 Facilities with Significant Violations
- 1 Facilities with Violations (3 years)
- 1 Facilities with Formal Enforcement Actions (5 years)
- 1 Facilities with Informal Enforcement Actions (5 years)

Modify Search

Documentation/Information Applicable to Facility Sources of Information

- NCDEQ, DWR, Pretreatment Section <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/percs/pretreatment-permits>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/percs/pretreatment-permits. The page has a green navigation bar with links for Home, Divisions, Permits & Rules, Outreach & Education, Energy & Climate, News, and About. The main content area is white and contains the following text:

The Federal and State Pretreatment Program gives regulatory authority for EPA, states, and municipal governments to control the discharge of industrial wastewater into municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) or Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). The objectives of the Pretreatment Program are to prevent pass-through, interference, or other adverse impacts to the POTW, its workers or the environment; to promote the beneficial reuse of biosolids; and to assure that all categorical pretreatment standards are met. There are over 600 Significant Industrial Users (SIUs) who discharge industrial wastewater to more than 110 POTWs throughout the State of North Carolina.

Dental Amalgam Rule - 40 CFR Part 441

EPA promulgated 40 CFR Part 441 Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Dental Category, on June 14, 2017 with an effective date of July 14, 2017. The new rule regulates mercury discharged in wastewater from dental facilities to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) or municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTP).

Existing sources are those dental dischargers in operation prior to July 14, 2017 and must submit to the Control Authority a one-time compliance report by October 12, 2020. Any dental practice that begins operation on or after July 14, 2017 is a new source and must comply with the Rule. Please see the [Fact Sheet](#) for further detail on requirements for equipment, best management practices and reporting and recording keeping and exemptions to the Rule.

For dental offices in locations with an approved pretreatment program the control authority is the POTW. Check the [list of municipal pretreatment contacts in NC](#) to determine if there is an approved pretreatment program in your location.

On the right side of the page, there is a dark blue sidebar with a green header labeled "Pretreatment". Below this header are several links: [Categorical User Information](#), [Comprehensive Guide](#), [Headworks Analysis](#), [Industrial Waste Survey](#), [Other Downloads](#), [Mercury Guidance](#), [Annual Report Guidance](#), [Permit Writing Guidance](#), [Training](#), and [Collection Systems](#). A red arrow points from the left side of the page towards the "list of municipal pretreatment contacts in NC" link in the main content area.



Public Website Searches

- North Carolina Secretary of State, Business Registration:
https://www.sosnc.gov/online_services/search/by_title/Business_Registration
- County GIS and Tax Websites
 - Is the property owned or leased?
 - Are the taxes delinquent or are there liens on the property?
- Internet searches of the company name, address, and owner may reveal information about the facility
 - Remember to check news stories and social media





Solvent-Contaminated Wipes Exclusion Final Thoughts and Frequent Questions



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes

- Does my facility use wipes?
- Does my facility generate solvent-contaminated wipes?
- Do the solvent-contaminated wipes meet the definition for the exclusion?
 - How are the wipes used?
 - What is the source of the contamination?
 - Is the solvent characteristic for ignitability only?
(consider a waste determination instead of exclusion)



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes

- Does my facility launder any items on site?
- Does my facility send any items to a laundry?
 - Items laundered on site or sent to be laundered/dry cleaned must be non-hazardous or meet the conditional exclusion
 - Hazardous waste must not be laundered on-site or off site unless laundry is permitted as a hazardous waste treatment, storage, disposal facility
 - Excluded solvent-contaminated wipes may be laundered/dry-cleaned on site or off-site but there must be an appropriate and valid CWA permit associated with the operation/activity



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Frequent Questions

Your facility uses MEK on wipes to clean parts. In the process of using the wipe, it becomes contaminated with chrome (high enough to exceed the TCLP concentrations).

Question: If the facility wanted to launder the wipes, can the wipes be managed under the solvent-contaminated wipe exclusion?

Answer: If the solvent-contaminated wipe is also characteristic for toxicity, it cannot be managed under the solvent-contaminated wipe exclusion.

Additionally, unless the laundry facility is a permitted TSD, only non-hazardous or excluded solvent-contaminated wipes may be sent to a laundry facility.



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Frequent Questions

A facility uses isopropyl alcohol (IPA) on wipes. When personnel are done using the wipe, it has no free liquids on the wipe.

Question: If these wipes are laundered or incinerated, can the facility manage the wipes by the solvent-contaminated wipe exclusion?

Answer: The wipes could be managed by the exclusion.

However, since the solvent is not F-listed, the facility may just want to make a waste determination on the wipes. If the wipes are not listed and are not characteristic, they could be managed as non-hazardous waste.



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Frequent Questions

Question: Under the solvent-contaminated wipes exclusions, can solvent-contaminated wipes just be thrown in the trash?

Answer: No, the solvent-contaminated wipes as defined in 40 CFR section 260.10 must meet the conditions of the exclusion, which include being in a labeled, closed container with no free liquids.



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Frequent Questions

Question: May a labeled, closed bag of contaminated wipes that does not contain free liquids be transported to a landfill or municipal waste combustor with other solid waste trash?

Answer: Yes, a bag of solvent-contaminated wipes that meets the conditions of the exclusion (i.e., closed, labeled, and contains no free liquids) may be placed into a dumpster and transported to a landfill with other solid waste trash.



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Frequent Questions

Question: Are wipes contaminated with paints that include a listed solvent as an ingredient in the paint eligible for the exclusions?

Answer: No. The solvent-contaminated wipes exclusion is limited to wipes contaminated with solvents as defined in 40 CFR section 260.10.

This includes wipes contaminated with solvents that meet the listing under F001 through F005 in 40 CFR section 261.31.

Paints that include a solvent chemical as an ingredient would not meet this listing description and thus wipes contaminated with these paints are not eligible for the solvent-contaminated wipes exclusion.



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Frequent Questions

Question: Are wipes contaminated with fuel or oil eligible for the solvent-contaminated wipes exclusion?

Answer: Solvent-contaminated wipes may be co-contaminated with fuels and still be eligible for the exclusion provided the fuels are not listed hazardous waste and the wipes do not exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity.

In other words, solvent-contaminated wipes that are co-contaminated with fuels that are not themselves listed hazardous waste and which only exhibit the characteristic of ignitability are eligible for the solvent-contaminated wipes exclusion.



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Frequent Questions

Question: Are unused wipes (such as unused retail products) eligible for the exclusions?

Answer: No. Pre-dosed, unused solvent or alcohol-containing wipes or pads (e.g., nail polish remover pads), such as those discarded by the retail industry, would not be eligible for the solvent-contaminated wipes exclusion.

This is because these pads, which are unused, would not meet our definition of solvent-contaminated wipe which is specific to wipes that “after use or after cleaning up a spill” contain certain solvents (40 CFR section 260.10).



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Frequent Questions

Question: Are wipes that are contaminated with a solvent that is not a listed hazardous waste under RCRA (i.e., not a listed solvent) eligible for the exclusions?

Answer: Yes, wipes that are contaminated with a solvent that is not listed under F001 through F005 in 40 CFR 261.33 are eligible for the solvent-contaminated wipes exclusion provided the wipes do not exhibit the characteristic of reactivity, corrosivity, or toxicity in 40 CFR 261.

Stated another way, wipes contaminated with a solvent that is not listed under F001 through F005 and that only exhibit the characteristic of ignitability in 40 CFR part 261 are eligible for the exclusions.



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes – Frequent Questions

Question: Are wipes that are contaminated with a solvent that is only listed for ignitable, corrosive, or reactive (ICR) properties but the contaminated wipe itself does not exhibit the ignitability, corrosivity, or reactivity characteristic eligible for the solvent-contaminated wipes exclusion?

Answer: Wipes that are contaminated with an ICR-only listed waste but do not exhibit the ignitability, corrosivity, or reactivity characteristic are not hazardous wastes per 40 CFR section 261.3(g)(1). Thus, these wipes would not need to be managed under the conditions of the solvent-contaminated wipes exclusion. (66 FR 27266, May 16, 2001)

However, it is the generator's responsibility to determine whether the solvent-contaminated wipes do exhibit a characteristic (such as ignitability). There is no specific test for ignitable solids so the generator would need to use knowledge and his or her best professional judgment to make that determination. Any free liquids would, of course, need to be managed as hazardous waste if they are themselves ignitable.



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes

For More Information (Federal Rule, FAQ, History):

<https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/final-rule-2013-conditional-exclusions-solid-waste-and-hazardous-waste-solvent>

EPA Summary Chart for Solvent-Contaminated Wipes:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/sumry_chrt_wipes_fnl_rul_070913.pdf

NCDEQ, Hazardous Waste Section Guidance:

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/hw/technical-assistance-education-guidance/documents>

Then click on "Solvent-Contaminated Wipes"

