

An Environmental Checklist for Dry Cleaners

This environmental checklist has been prepared to help you determine if your business is operating efficiently. The questions are designed to make you think about the various aspects of your business that are likely to have an effect on the environment and are unnecessarily costing you money.

If you answer 'No' to any of these questions you could be missing opportunities to save money, or you could be harming the environment, breaking the law and leaving your business vulnerable to fines and/or prosecution under current environmental laws.

Use the information in this package to get started on an environmental program. Contact your local council, Drycleaning Institute of Australia NSW (DIA) or the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) if you would like more information.

CAN YOU ANSWER YES TO EACH OF THESE QUESTIONS?

If not, refer to the relevant information sheet described to find out more.

Environmental management

Does your business have an environmental management policy or plan?

Yes No N/A

Do you inform and train your staff about environmental management?

Yes No N/A

Have you made changes to the way your business operates for environmental reasons?

Yes No N/A

Do you consider environmental costs and savings in your financial management?

Yes No N/A

Have you considered marketing your service or business by highlighting your good environmental performance?

Yes No N/A

Do you have appropriate educational materials for your staff displayed around your business, such as 'The drain is just for rain'?

Yes No N/A

Air quality management (refer to Information Sheet 3)

Have you investigated or implemented any new procedures or processes that could or would reduce or eliminate air emissions and odours?

Yes No N/A

Do you have specific pollution control technology or machinery that reduces odours and emissions when venting or exhausting from your premises?

Yes No N/A

Have you ever asked your staff or neighbours whether your dry cleaning process causes offensive odours to them?

Yes No N/A

Do you have any devices or procedures in place to monitor whether emissions comply with the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) recommendations?

Yes No N/A

Do you know what the national exposure standard for perchloroethylene (PERC) is?

Yes No N/A

Is equipment regularly inspected, cleaned and maintained to ensure that it is operating within the manufacturer's specifications?

Yes No N/A

Hazardous materials (refer to Information Sheet 4)

Have you investigated using alternative chemicals that may be less environmentally damaging and/or can be delivered with minimal packaging?

Yes No N/A

Do you have an emergency response or spill procedure, and equipment, to contain any spills?

Yes No N/A

Are you aware of which chemicals may or may not be stored safely with each other?

Yes No N/A

Trade wastewater (refer to Information Sheet 5)

If you discharge trade wastewater to the sewer from your dry cleaning operation does it first pass through an appropriate solvent recovery unit?

Yes No N/A

Can you demonstrate a suitable maintenance program for your solvent recovery unit?

Yes No N/A

Can you quantify the amount of PERC you dispose of each month? At what cost?

Yes No N/A

Do you keep up to date on the latest methods and technologies to reduce or reuse wastewater or improve wastewater quality? What about PERC recovery?

Yes No N/A

Do you monitor your wastewater discharges?

Yes No N/A

Waste management (refer to Information Sheet 6)

Have you conducted a waste audit to determine just how much waste your business generates and how much it costs to dispose of this waste?

Yes No N/A

Have you investigated different processes that could reduce your waste quantities and hence disposal costs?

Yes No N/A

Do you separate your wastes (items for reuse, recycle or return to supplier)?

Yes No N/A

Have you asked your materials suppliers whether they can take back and reuse the packaging, containers or other waste that you otherwise have to dispose of?

Yes No N/A

Have you investigated alternative (reusable, recyclable) ways to reduce wastes, such as, introduce a program for reusing plastic covers and wire hangers?

Yes No N/A

Are your liquid wastes collected and disposed of by a licensed waste contractor?

Yes No N/A

Noise management (refer to Information Sheet 7)

Are you aware of the effects of your noise on your neighbours?

Yes No N/A

Have you made changes to reduce your noise?

Yes No N/A

Do you regularly check and maintain noisy equipment?

Yes No N/A

Stormwater management (refer to Information Sheet 8)

Do you have any procedures in place to prevent pollution of stormwater in the case of spillages and/or leaks?

Yes No N/A

Do you prevent wastes and spillages from entering the stormwater drains?

Yes No N/A

Are your liquid materials stored in a covered and bunded (contained) area?

Yes No N/A

Energy and water use (refer to Information Sheet 9)

Do you monitor your use of energy?

Yes No N/A

Have you installed any energy efficient devices or appliances?

Yes No N/A

Have you changed any of your processes, procedures or equipment in the last 5 years to improve your energy and water efficiency?

Yes No N/A

Do you sweep up litter and leaves first, instead of hosing down surface areas around your premises?

Yes No N/A

Now that you have completed this checklist and identified the areas where you can make improvements:

- Read through the environmental information sheets.
- Get started on an environmental improvement program that will be good for you, your staff and your customers.

THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT!