

**Best Management Practices for Dry-cleaning Facilities**  
**Reduce the risk of ground and groundwater contamination**

- Maintain the integrity of all equipment. Ensure that all equipment is up-to-date.
- Seal floor drains and use solvent-resistant floor coatings in areas where spills are most likely to occur. Perchloroethylene (Perc, also known as Tetrachloroethylene) can easily pass through concrete.
- Use secondary containment to store your raw and waste materials to prevent the leakage of Perc.
- Remove muck, used carbon filters, and other waste from your equipment using a solvent resistant material to collect it. It then can be readily placed in the appropriate storage drum.
- Consider alternatives to the discharge of Perc-containing material to the sanitary sewer. Many sanitary sewers crack, break, or misalign over time, increasing the chance of a leak to the environment.
- Inspect containers frequently to prevent the risk of leaks and spills. They should be closed and labeled.
- Store all raw and waste materials indoors under controlled conditions.
- Apply rags, towels, or other absorbent material at the first sign of a spill or leak. Place the used material in a drum for disposal. It is possible they may be cleaned and reused.
- Evaporate water. If this option is considered, the wastewater treatment unit must be operated and maintained under certain conditions.
  - Treat separator water using activated carbon or equivalent media to reduce the Perc concentration to less than 0.7 ppm prior to evaporation.
  - Obtain documentation from the manufacturer to verify a concentration less than 0.7 ppm.
  - Close the unit after pouring a certain amount of separator water into the unit.
  - Maintain an operating log to serve as a reminder when to replace the media (gallons or time). Neglecting filter replacement increases the risk of contaminating air, soil & groundwater.
  - Review and maintain a copy of the operating and maintenance instructions provided by the manufacturer.
  - Any media removed from the unit is hazardous waste and should be placed in a storage drum.
  - Consider using a unit with a high level Perc sensor. Separator water triggering a high level alarm can be introduced into the still to reclaim Perc.

- For more information:
  - [http://epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/perchloroethylene\\_fact\\_sheet.html](http://epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/perchloroethylene_fact_sheet.html)
  - <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/perc.html>

*White Paper on Perchloroethylene*, Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance, November 2008.  
*Evaporation of Separator Water*, International Fabricare Institute. Regulatory & Legislative Bulletin, 1994.