

Management of Solvent-Contaminated Wipes

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Introduction

Reusable and disposable wipes are commonly used by businesses and institutions to clean parts and equipment. Through use, the wipes become contaminated with solvents and other materials that could classify them as hazardous waste. This publication outlines the requirements for proper management and disposal of hazardous solvent-contaminated wipes.

Wisconsin Hazardous Waste regulations are found in [chs. NR 660-679](#) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Current Wisconsin rules allow, under certain conditions, for the exclusion of reusable solvent-contaminated wipes from solid waste regulation and for disposable solvent-contaminated wipes from hazardous waste regulation. The conditions are found in ss. NR 661.04(1)(z) and (2)(r), Wisc. Admin. Code, and they reflect the federal requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule, *Conditional Exclusions from Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste for Solvent-Contaminated Wipes*.

A *Solvent-Contaminated Wipes Exclusion Documentation Form* is attached to this publication. This form is not mandatory, it is provided as an example to assist with meeting and documenting the federal conditional exclusion requirements.

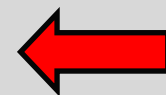
What is a wipe and when is it eligible for the exclusion?

Wipe means a woven or non-woven shop towel, rag, pad or swab made of wood pulp, fabric, cotton, polyester blends or other materials. To be eligible for the exclusions, a solvent-contaminated wipe must meet one of the following criteria:

- A wipe that, after using or cleaning up a spill, contains one or more of the F001 to F005 solvents listed in [s. NR 661.31](#) Wis. Adm. Code, or the corresponding P- or U-listed solvents in [s. NR 661.33](#), or exhibits a hazardous characteristic found in [subch. C. of ch. NR 661](#) when that characteristic results from a listed solvent, **or**
- A wipe that exhibits only the hazardous waste characteristic of ignitability found in [s. NR 661.21](#) due to the presence of one or more non-listed solvents.

Solvent-contaminated wipes **not eligible** for the exclusion include:

- Wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than solvents; or
- Wipes that exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity or reactivity due to contaminants other than solvents; or
- Wipes contaminated with **trichloroethylene** that are designated for disposal.



These contaminated wipes **must** be managed as **hazardous waste**.

Management of reusable wipes

Eligible solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for cleaning and reuse are excluded from solid waste regulation, provided they meet the conditions below when accumulated, stored, transported and cleaned. Generators of solvent-contaminated wipes sent to be cleaned by a commercial laundry or dry cleaner must meet the following conditions to be exempt under this guidance:

- Store in non-leaking, **closed containers**,
- Label all containers “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes”, when accumulating, storing and transporting wipes.
- Accumulate wipes for no more than 180 days before shipping offsite for laundering. The 180-day clock begins at the accumulation start date of for each container (i.e., the date the first solvent-contaminated wipe is placed in the container).
- Prior to transporting offsite, remove free liquids from the wipes, seal the container to prevent leaks or emissions and label. Methods that may be used to remove solvents include centrifuging, mechanical-wringing, screen-bottom drums and vacuum extraction. **The extracted liquids must be managed as hazardous waste.**
- Maintain records to confirm the wipes are being managed appropriately, including:
 1. The name and address of the commercial laundry receiving the wipes and documentation that the laundry has an approved wastewater treatment system or discharge permit;
 2. Document the 180-day accumulation limit is being met; and
 3. Document that there are no free liquids in the wipes before being sent offsite to be laundered, using Test Method 9095B (Paint Filter Liquids Test), EPA publication SW-846 or a comparable method.

A container is considered closed when all openings are closed and there is **complete contact** between the fitted lid and the rim.

Management of disposable wipes

Eligible solvent-contaminated wipes that can be sent for disposal are excluded from hazardous waste regulation provided they meet the conditions below when accumulated, stored, and transported for disposal. Generators may send **eligible** solvent-contaminated wipes offsite for disposal by one of the following methods:

- Store in non-leaking, **closed containers**,
- Label containers “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes”;
- Accumulate wipes for no more than 180 days before shipping offsite for disposal. The 180-day clock begins at the accumulation start date of for each container (i.e., the date the first solvent-contaminated wipe is placed in the container).
- Prior to transporting offsite, remove free liquids from the wipes, seal the container to prevent leaks or emissions and label. Methods that may be used to remove solvents include centrifuging, mechanical-wringing, screen-bottom drums and vacuum extraction. **The extracted liquids must be managed as hazardous waste.**
- Generators may dispose of the eligible solvent-contaminated wipes in a labeled, sealed, non-leaking bag by either:
 1. Placing the bag in their trash can or dumpster for shipment to a licensed or permitted solid waste landfill.

A container is considered closed when all openings are closed and there is **complete contact** between the fitted lid and the rim.

2. Hiring a solid waste transporter to deliver the labeled, sealed, non-leaking bag to a licensed or permitted municipal solid waste landfill, combustor, or incinerator.
- Maintain records to confirm the wipes are being managed appropriately, including:
 1. Extraction method used and verification there are no free liquids in the wipes before being sent offsite, using Test Method 9095B (Paint Filter Liquids Test), EPA publication SW-846 or a comparable method.
 2. The 180-day accumulation limit is being met; and
 3. The name and address of the disposal location.

Note: Excluded contaminated wipes must be prevented from mixing freely with other solid waste. Containers or bags of excluded solvent-contaminated wipes must be labeled when accumulating, storing and disposing. Labels can be pre-printed, or handwritten on stickers or duct tape, as long as they are legible.



A recommended best management practices would be to remove the air from the bag prior to sealing to prevent the bag from breaking open during transit or at the landfill. Bags can be sealed with duct tape or by twisting the top portion of the bag and folding it over in a goose neck before taping.

Resources for more information

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule, Conditional Exclusions from Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste for Solvent-Contaminated Wipes:

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

EPA Test Method 9095B (Paint Filter Test), EPA publication SW-846:

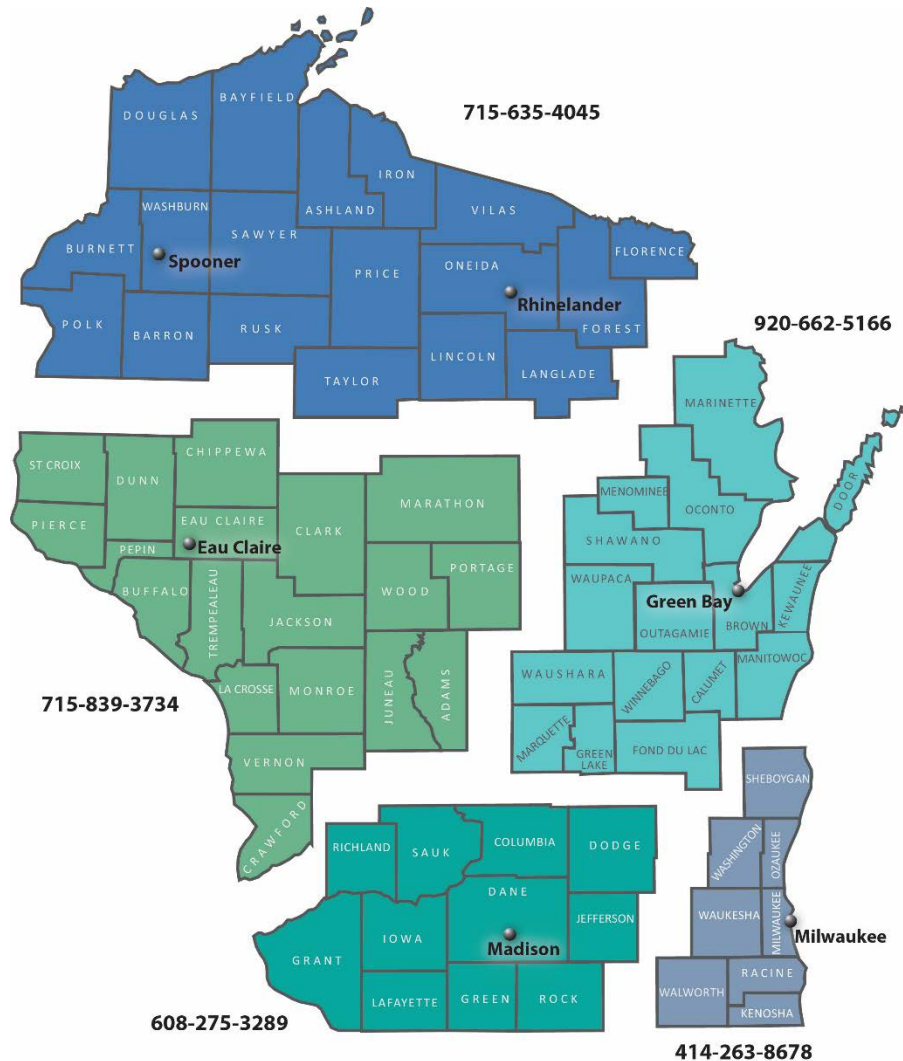
<https://www.epa.gov/hw-sw846/sw-846-test-method-9095b-paint-filter-liquids-test>

On-site Solvent Reclamation: A Guide for Hazardous Waste Generators

<http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/wa/WA1523.pdf>

DNR Contact Information

For more information on this subject, including other publications, staff contacts and administrative codes and statutes, search by topic or WA publication number at dnr.wi.gov, or contact Waste & Materials Management staff. Staff contacts for DNR regional offices can be found by searching "[waste regional office](#)" at or see map below:



Mailing address: DNR Waste & Materials Management Program, PO Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707

Email: DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov

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Solvent Contaminated Wipes Documentation Form

5. ACCUMULATION OF WIPES

Check the method that will be used to document that these wipes are accumulated for no longer than 180 days.

- A date is placed on each container.
- A contract is in place with a laundry facility scheduled to remove the wipes at regular intervals of less than 180 days. A copy of the contract (or invoices) is attached detailing pick-up schedule.
- Each collection container has a designated number and a log is kept of when each collection container is emptied into the storage container. Also recorded in the log is the date each storage container is removed from the site.
- Other:

6. PREPARATION FOR TRANSPORT

Explain the method and testing used to meet the “no free liquids” requirement. Possible methods include: mechanical wringing, vacuum extraction, centrifuging, or other equivalent method. Document that the “no free liquid” requirement was met.

NOTE: All extracted solvent must be managed as hazardous waste.

7. RECEIVING FACILITY

List the name and address of all handlers receiving the wipes, including transporters, laundries, dry cleaners, landfills, hazardous waste incinerators, solid waste combustors, or any other facility. Continue list on a separate page, if necessary.

NOTE – Laundry facility must have an approved wastewater treatment system or discharge permit to launder excluded solvent-contaminated wipes.

Name	Address	City	State	Zip code

8. VERIFICATION

List the name and title of the person who completed this form.

NAME(print)	TITLE	DATE

Note: This example documentation form is proved for general use by the WI DNR. It is not a required form. www.dnr.wi.gov