

# The Management of Solvent Contaminated Rags and Wipes

**THIS POLICY DOES NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW**

**Hazardous Waste**

*This Guidance supersedes all previous guidance of solvent contaminated wipes, because Ohio has adopted the Federal Regulations*

## What is the Purpose of this Guidance?

On July 31, 2013, the US EPA published the Final Rules titled “Conditional Exclusion from Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste for Solvent Contaminated Wipes. The Federal rule became effective on January 31, 2014. As of October 31, 2015 Ohio adopted the federal rule into the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). No free liquids, solvent contaminated wipes and wipes are defined in OAC rule [3745-50-10](#) (88), (118) and (159). The exclusions for wipes can be found in OAC rules, [3745-51-04](#)(A)(26) and (B)(18). Ohio’s rule is now identical to the Federal Regulations on the management of solvent contaminated wipes.



## Background

Wipes, which means a woven or non-woven shop towel, rag, pad, or swab made of wood pulp, fabric, cotton, polyester blends, or other material, are used by many businesses in conjunction with solvents as part of the cleaning process. These wipes are then either cleaned and reused (reusable wipes) or sent for disposal (disposable wipes). Under the Solvent-Contaminated Wipes rule, reusable and disposable wipes are excluded from regulation under Ohio’s hazardous waste rules when certain conditions are met. Generators who fail to follow the requirements of this rule will lose the conditional exclusions from the definition of solid waste or hazardous waste, and may become subject to the full requirements of the solid and hazardous waste regulations. The conditions which a generator must meet are outlined below.

## WHAT SOLVENTS CONTAMINATED WIPES ARE COVERED BY THIS EXCLUSION?

Wipes that contain one or more F001-F005 listed solvents listed in OAC rule [3745-51-31](#) or the corresponding P- or U- listed solvents. The solvents found in OAC rule [3745-51-31](#), including:

|                     |                        |                             |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Acetone             | 1,2-Dichlorobenzene    | Methanol                    |
| Benzene             | Methyl isobutyl ketone | Methyl ethyl ketone         |
| n-Butanol           | Ethyl acetate          | Toluene                     |
| Chlorobenzene       | 1,1,2- Trichloroethane | Methylene chloride          |
| Creosols            | Ethyl benzene          | Xylenes                     |
| Cyclohexanone       | 2-Ethoxyethanol        | Trichloroethylene *         |
| Tetrachloroethylene | Isobutyl alcohol       | (*For reusable wipes only.) |

- Wipes that exhibit a ***hazardous characteristic*** resulting from a solvent listed in OAC [3745-51-20 to 3745-51-24](#) when that characteristic results from an F001- F005 solvent listed in OAC rule [3745-51-31](#)
- Wipes that exhibit only the hazardous characteristic of ignitability when containing one or more non-listed in [OAC 3745-51-33](#).

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## LAUNDERING OF SOLVENT CONTAMINATED WIPES

(Solid Waste Exclusion) **OAC 3745-51-04(A)(26)**

Solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for cleaning and reuse are not solid wastes provided the following conditions of the exclusion are met:

CONDITION 1: Specifically, the wipes, when accumulated, stored, and transported, must be contained in containers that are:

Closed; non-leaking; and capable of holding free liquids

A plastic can liner will qualify as a container provided it meets the three conditions listed above.

CONDITION 2: LABELING: Containers must be labeled “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes.”

CONDITION 3: 180 day accumulation limit from the moment a wipe is first placed into the container.

CONDITION 4: Must not contain free liquids at the point they are sent off-site. “Free liquids” are defined in OAC **3745-50-10** (A)(51) No free liquids” is defined OAC **3745-50-10** (A)(88) and is based on the EPA methods test **9095B** (*paint filter liquids test*) or other authorized state standard.

CONDITION 5: Free liquids must be managed according to hazardous waste rules

CONDITION 6: Maintain the Required Documentation

- 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.

CONDITION 7: The Laundry or dry cleaners’ discharge is regulated under *Clean Water Act*



## THE EXCLUSION FOR THE LAUNDERING OF SOLVENT CONTAMINATED WIPES DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- 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

## DISPOSAL OF SOLVENT CONTAMINATED WIPES

(Hazardous Waste Exemption) **OAC 3745-51-04(B)(18)**

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 following conditions are met:

# The Management of Solvent Contaminated Rags and Wipes

CONDITION 1: The wipes, when accumulated, stored, and transported, must be contained in containers that are: Closed; non-leaking; and capable of holding free liquids.

A plastic can liner will qualify as a container provided it meets the three conditions listed above.

CONDITION 2: Labeling: Containers must be labeled “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes”

CONDITION 3: 180 day accumulation limit from the moment a wipe is first placed into the container.

CONDITION 4: Must not contain free liquids at the point they are sent off-site. “Free liquids” are defined in OAC [3745-50-10](#) (A)(51) No free liquids” is defined OAC [3745-50-10](#) (A)(88) and is based on the EPA methods test [9095B](#) (*paint filter liquids test*) or other authorized state standard.

CONDITION 5: Free liquids must be managed according to hazardous waste rules.

CONDITION 6: Documentation required

- Name and address of landfill or combustion facility
- Documentation of 180 day limit is met
- Description of process used to ensure no free liquids are present.

CONDITION 7: It is disposed in one of the following:

- **Municipal Waste** or Industrial Waste Landfill that is permitted, licensed or otherwise authorized by Ohio and meets the requirements of rule [3745-27-08](#) or [3745-29-08](#) of the Administrative Code; or
- Is permitted, licensed, or otherwise authorized by another state that has this exemption; or
- Disposal in a permitted **hazardous waste** landfill; or
- A Municipal Waste Combustor regulated under Section 129 of the Clean Air Act or
- A **Hazardous Waste Combustor, Boiler, or Industrial Furnace** regulated under OAC rules [3745-57, 68](#) or [266](#).

## THE EXEMPTION FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SOLVENT CONTAMINATED WIPES DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than F001 to F005 solvents.
- Wipes that exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity due to non-listed solvents or contaminants other than solvents.
- Wipes that are hazardous waste due to the presence of trichloroethylene (TCE)

## OILY RAGS (are not covered by the exclusion for laundering or the exemption for disposal)

Rags containing or otherwise contaminated with used oil are regulated under the used oil rules if the used oil has not been removed by a physical separation process (wringing or centrifuging). If the rags have been drained or otherwise had the used oil removed from them and there are no visible signs of free flowing used oil, they are waste that must be **evaluated** to determine if they are or are not a hazardous waste.

## Contact

For more information, contact the Hazardous Waste Compliance and Inspection Support Unit of the **Division of Materials and Waste Management** at 614-644-2621.