



Important Notice to Drycleaners From Fairfax County

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Perc Contaminated Waste Prohibited to Sanitary Sewer

Fairfax County is alerting the drycleaning business community regarding the requirements for discharge to the sanitary sewer system. The discharge of perchloroethylene (also known as perc or tetrachloroethylene) wastes is regulated under Fairfax County Code Section 67.1-2-1. Paragraph (a)(2) of this Section prohibits the discharge of industrial wastes except as specifically approved in writing by the Director; and Paragraph (b)(14) prohibits the discharge of hazardous wastes, as defined by 40 CFR Part 261, except as may be specifically authorized by the Director. Under 40 CFR Section 261.31, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists tetrachloroethylene waste as hazardous (waste number F002).

Perc, if improperly handled, can cause a variety of environmental problems. In addition to concerns involving air pollution and groundwater contamination, perc has the potential to adversely impact the sanitary sewer system. Potential problems include exposure of employees to toxic atmospheres in the collection system and interference with the operation of the wastewater treatment plant. In response to these potential hazards, **Fairfax County prohibits the discharge of perc and perc-contaminated wastes to the sanitary sewer system. Perc-contaminated wastes include still residues from solvent distillation, spent filter cartridges, cooked powder residue, and separator water.** Fairfax County also prohibits the discharge of petroleum-based solvents. The Industrial Waste Section of Fairfax County periodically inspects drycleaners for compliance with discharge requirements and to ensure that these wastes are not being discharged to the sanitary sewer system.

Safe disposal of perc protects the health of our community and the environment. Your diligence in this effort is the key to our success. Please direct any questions you may have concerning perc disposal or sanitary sewer discharge regulations to the Fairfax County Industrial Waste Section at 703-550-9740, ext. 252. Additional information regarding dry cleaning practices may be obtained from the Mid-Atlantic Association of Cleaners, 540-775-2525; the Korean-American Drycleaners Association of Greater Washington, Mr. Jeff Ahn, 703-608-0149; or the EPA Web site at www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/assistance/sectors/drycleaningpub.html.

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