

Rags

Potential Environmental Impacts:

Contaminated rags that are improperly managed may pose fire, health, and environmental risks. Minimizing contamination of rags reduces health risks to workers and emissions of volatile organic compounds to the air, improves effluent discharge from industrial laundries if you use launderable rags, decreases liability risks, and saves money by minimizing solvent use.

Legal Requirements:

- How used cloth rags are managed depends on what the rags are contaminated with. If the used rag is:
 - ▶ dripping with used oil, manage as used oil (see Appendix C).
 - ▶ contaminated with used oil, but not dripping, test for hazardous waste then properly manage (see Appendix B).
 - ▶ contaminated with paints or solvents, or other hazardous materials, manage as hazardous waste (see Appendix B).
 - ▶ contaminated with non hazardous materials such as waxes, polishing compounds, etc., manage as solid waste if only a small number are generated (1 or 2 per dumpster). If significant numbers of these rags are generated; however, they must be segregated and managed as Connecticut-regulated waste (see Appendix B).
 - ▶ contaminated with other material (or only with mild cleaners or soaps), dispose of in regular trash.
- If you lease rags and have them laundered, and they are contaminated with hazardous waste, you must manage them as hazardous waste until they are picked up for laundering. However, they do not require a hazardous waste manifest.
- If you choose to launder your own rags, you will need a wastewater discharge permit from the CT-DEP which authorizes you to discharge effluent to the sanitary sewer [CGS §22a-430]. Contact CT-DEP's Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance at (860) 424-3018 for more information.

Best Management Practices:

- ✪ Keep oily rags separate from rags that have been contaminated with hazardous materials such as solvents.
- ✪ Use cloth rags which can be recycled by an industrial laundry service.
- ✪ Contract with a permitted industrial laundry service that will pick up soiled rags and deliver clean rags on a regular basis. The laundry service may require you to limit the solvent and other chemical content of the soiled rags because of the limits on their permit to discharge wastewater into the sanitary sewer.

- ✦ Store ignitable rags in NFPA approved, labeled containers until they can be laundered.
- ✦ Reduce the amount of solvent used in cleaning through improved work practices. Use solvents only when absolutely necessary. Use non-VOC cleaners.
- ✦ Remove excess solvent from rags by wringing or pressing excess into a coverable container.

Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

No Clean Marina certification criteria specific to rags.