



Solvent-Contaminated Wipes: Hazardous Waste or Not?

The Federal EPA regulations on how solvent-contaminated wipes can be managed has changed. Prior to this rule, reusable solvent contaminated wipes were regulated as *Solid Waste*. Disposable solvent contaminated wipes had to be regulated as hazardous waste.

The new regulation aims to lessen the compliance costs for industry, specifically small businesses.

	Solvent-Contaminated Reusable Wipes	Solvent-Contaminated Disposable Wipes
Regulation Citation	40 CFR 261.4(a)(26) (Solid Waste Exclusion)	40 CFR 261.4(b)(18) (Hazardous Waste Exclusion)
Description	Solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for cleaning and reuse are not solid wastes, provided the conditions of the exclusion are met.	Solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for disposal are not hazardous wastes, provided the conditions of the exclusion are met.
Includes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wipes containing one or more F001-F005 listed solvents listed in § 261.31 or the corresponding P- or U- listed solvents found in § 261.33, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acetone Benzene n-Butanol Chlorobenzene Creosols Cyclohexanone 1,2 - Dichlorobenzene Ethyl acetate Ethyl benzene 2-Ethoxyethanol Isobutyl alcohol Methanol Methyl ethyl ketone Methyl Isobutyl ketone Methylene chloride Tetrachloroethylene Toluene 1,1,2 - Trichloroethane Trichloroethylene <i>(*For reusable wipes only.)</i> Xylenes Wipes that exhibit a hazardous characteristic resulting from a solvent listed in part 261. Wipes that exhibit only the hazardous characteristic of ignitability when containing one or more non-listed solvents. 	

Restrictions to this regulation include labeling the container “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes”, an accumulation time limit of 180 days and recordkeeping requirements. Recordkeeping requirements include: name and address of the laundry, dry cleaner, landfill or combustor, documentation that the 180 day accumulation time limit is being met and, SOP of how generator is determining “no free liquids” are present.