

Comparison of Hazards, Regulatory Concerns, and Costs for Alternative Dry Cleaning Technologies



| | Technology ¹ | Total Annual Cost (for first 5 years) ³ | Primary Human Health and Environmental Hazards | Air Regulations (Bay Area Air Quality Management District) | Health Regulations (Department of Public Health) | Fire Regulations (Fire Department) | Other Considerations |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | PROFESSIONAL WET CLEANING | \$20,926 | None Identified | N/A | Detergent, spotters should be chosen to minimize environmental concerns Possible annual fee for hazardous material storage (if ≥55 gal hazardous detergent stored on site) | N/A | CARB offers \$10,000 grants for conversion (AB 998) |
| | CO₂ cleaning² | \$58,881 | None Identified | N/A | •Possible annual fee based on volume of ${\rm CO_2}$ gas stored on site | SFFD operational permit and annual licensing fee required Use of Class I alkane co-solvent prohibited per CA Fire Code 1204.1 | CARB's offers \$10,000 grants for conversion (AB 998) Machine must be maintained to avoid CO₂ leaks |
| | Hydrocarbon solvents: -DF-2000 [™] -EcoSolv® -Shell Sol -PureDry® | \$27,755 -\$28,535 | Neurotoxicity, eye, skin and respiratory irritation Potential concerns for persistence and aquatic toxicity Complex mixtures which may contain other ingredients of concern | Regulated under BAAQMD Rule 8-17 Closed-loop machine required Registration required Permit required if >200 gal/yr gross solvent used | Annual fee for hazardous waste generated Annual fee for hazardous material storage (≥55 gal stored on site) & compressed gas storage (if ≥200 ft³ N₂) | SFFD operational permit and annual licensing fee required Combustible liquid (Class IIIA) Ventilation, automatic sprinkler system, fire extinguishers as specified in Fire Code Ch 12 | Emits smog forming volatile organic compounds (VOCs) |
| | GreenEarth® (D5) solvent | \$32,718 | Suspected carcinogen, reproductive toxin Liver, immune and nervous system effects Persistent in environment; detected in fish | Regulated under BAAQMD Rule 8-17 Closed-loop machine required Registration required Permit required if >200 gal/yr gross solvent used | Annual fee for hazardous waste generated Annual fee for hazardous material storage (≥55 gal stored on site) | SFFD operational permit and annual licensing fee required Combustible liquid (Class IIIA)⁴ Ventilation, automatic sprinkler system, fire extinguishers as specified in Fire Code Ch 12 | |
| | CO₂ cleaning² with Micell Technologies | \$58,881 | Possible use of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in Micell technology raises concerns for endocrine disruption, reproductive and developmental effects and persistence/bioaccumulation | N/A | Possible annual fee based on volume of CO₂ gas stored on site | SFFD operational permit and annual licensing fee required Use of Class I alkane co-solvent prohibited per CA Fire Code 1204.1 | Machine must be maintained to avoid CO₂ leaks |
| | Rynex™ solvent | \$26,220 | Chemical identity withheld as trade secret Primary ingredient likely to be dipropylene glycol t-butyl ether (DGTBE) DGBTE structurally related to a listed Proposition 65 carcinogen and predicted to be persistent | Regulated under BAAQMD Rule 8-17 Closed-loop machine required Registration required Permit required if >200 gal/yr gross solvent used | Annual fee for hazardous waste generated Annual fee for hazardous material storage (≥55 gal stored on site) | SFFD operational permit and annual licensing fee required Combustible liquid (Class IIIB) Ventilation, automatic sprinkler system, fire extinguishers as specified in Fire Code Ch 12 | Emits smog forming VOCs Complete assessment not possible without information on identity and hazards of chemical ingredients |
| | Hydrocarbon solvent: Stoddard solvent blend | \$28,308 | Contains aromatic hydrocarbons (e.g. benzene, a carcinogen) Neurotoxic, eye, skin and respiratory irritation Potential concerns for bioaccumulation and aquatic toxicity | Regulated under BAAQMD Rule 8-17 Closed-loop machine required Registration required Permit required if >200 gal/yr gross solvent used | Annual fee for hazardous waste generated Annual fee for hazardous material storage (≥55 gal stored on site) | SFFD operational permit and annual licensing fee required Combustible liquid (Class II) Ventilation, automatic sprinkler system, fire extinguishers as specified in Fire Code Ch 12 | Emits smog forming VOCs |
| | Perchloroethylene | \$27,376 | Carcinogen (California's Proposition 65 list) Liver and kidney effects Neurotoxic, eye, skin and respiratory irritation Persistent in the environment | Regulated under BAAQMD Rule 11-16 Secondary control technology required Registration required Permit required Mandatory phase out in progress | Annual fee for hazardous waste generated Annual fee for hazardous material storage (≥55 gal stored on site) | N/A | |
| | 1- Propyl bromide | | Male and female reproductive toxicant and developmental toxicant (California's Proposition 65 list) Neurotoxic, eye, skin and respiratory irritation | Regulated under BAAQMD Rule 11-16 Secondary control technology required Registration required Permit required | Annual fee for hazardous waste generated Annual fee for hazardous material storage (≥55 gal stored on site) | ILLEGAL per CA Fire Code 1204.1 Flammable liquid (Class I), NFPA rating 3 | Use without sufficient stabilizer likely to cause corrosion and damage to cleaning equipment⁵ |

Green Jet refreshing technology can be used to supplement an existing professional wet or dry cleaning machine: www.drywetcleaning.com

²This technology uses reclaimed CO₂ so no new greenhouse gases are generated.

³Cost/year for first 5 yrs based on machine, solvent, detergent, spotting agent, electricity, natural gas, waste disposal, filter/gasket, maintenance costs (CARB, 2006)

⁴Class determined based on flash point listed in MSDS for each solvent

⁵Wolf, Katy. 2006. n-Propyl Bromide Destroys Equipment in Dry Cleaning Plant. http://irta.us/