

GPG 10 Using & Disposing of Solvents



Governing Legislation and Standards:

Environment Protection Act
Occupational Health & Safety Act
Dangerous Goods Act
Dangerous Goods (Storage & Handling) Regulations
AS 1940, Flammable Storage Cabinets



Summary Information:

Solvents are often flammable materials that are hazardous to people and the environment.

Large quantities of flammable solvent may be considered as dangerous goods and will, therefore, require specific risk controls according to Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Materials Legislation.

Because solvents evaporate easily you must be careful to keep solvent containers tightly sealed. You should also adopt handling procedures that prevent excessive contact with the skin.

Waste solvent is primarily generated from cleaning equipment and parts.

No solvent, other than water, regardless of whether it is clean or contaminated, must enter the sewerage system.

All solvent waste should be considered as prescribed waste.

Storage areas for flammable materials must comply with AS 1940.



Further Help:

EPA Victoria, telephone 03 9695 2777
Solvent and equipment suppliers

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Good Practice Risk Control:

- Always purchase the least harmful solvents available.
- Check with your local authority and the fire brigade, regarding your storage of solvents.
- Do not store solvents in open containers.
- Keep the smallest practical quantity of solvents.
- Store all solvents in an enclosure or cabinet that complies to AS 1940
- Use totally enclosed washing machines, in preference to using open containers.
- Recycle solvents on site using a purpose built machine.
- Always follow the instructions listed on the solvent's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).
- Never use, or store, solvents near ignition sources.
- Appoint a contractor with an EPA permit to remove and dispose of your used solvents.
- Always use the Personal Protective Equipment shown on the solvent's MSDS. This may include; gloves, eye protection, overalls and respirators.