



Prescribed Industrial Waste - Solvents

Solvents are often flammable materials that are hazardous to people and the environment. Waste solvent is primarily generated from cleaning equipment and parts. No solvent, regardless of whether it is clean or contaminated, must enter the stormwater or sewerage system (via a triple interceptor).

Managing Solvents

- Always purchase the least harmful solvents available.
- Keep the smallest practical quantity of solvents onsite.
- Do not store solvents in open containers – ensure that they are tightly sealed.
- Store all solvents in an enclosure or cabinet that complies with Australian Standard 1940-2004 'The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids'.
- Use parts washing machines that are totally enclosed, in preference to using open parts washers.
- Never use or store solvents near ignition sources.
- Always follow the instructions listed on the solvents Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).
- Always use the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shown on the solvents MSDS. These may include gloves, eye protection, overalls and respirators.

Disposing of Solvents

- Appoint a contractor with an EPA permit to remove and dispose of your used solvents, as it must be handled as a prescribed industrial waste.
- Ensure that you keep the Waste Transport Certificate for at least 24 months.
- Alternatively, recycle solvents on site using a purpose built machine.

Further Information



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Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic. Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.