

# Safe Solvent Contaminated Wipes (Ohio)

**Solvent-contaminated wipes fall under two regulations; 40 CFR 261.4(a)(26) and 40 CFR 261.4(b)(18).** In Ohio and some other states\*, solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for cleaning and reuse (rags) are not solid wastes and solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for disposal (paper towels) are not hazardous wastes if conditions of the exclusion are met. This means that although we don't have to treat the wipes as a hazardous waste, they cannot be discarded or managed like general trash.

\*Note: These regulations are State specific. Please check your local and state regulations to see if you can utilize this exemption.



## How to Comply



- Collect rags/paper towels that have touched solvent in closed containers. A small drum with a lid is best. Label the container "excluded solvent contaminated wipes".
- You may accumulate wipes for up to 180 days from the start of the accumulation before they must be sent for cleaning or disposal.
- No free liquids should be in the container. This means

we must ensure the rags are not dripping wet, so, if needed, wring them out over the solvent storage container before placing them in the accumulation container. Any free liquids must be managed according to applicable hazardous waste regulations.

- Wipes must be transported in non-leaking, closed containers.
- If the wipes are to be recycled (rags) they must go to a laundry or dry cleaner whose discharge is regulated under the appropriate sections of the Clean Water Act.
- If the wipes are to be discarded (paper towels) they must go to a regulated combustor, boiler, industrial furnace or landfill.
- Keep documentation that includes:
  - Name and address of the location the wipes are being sent
  - Start and end date of the accumulation (no more than 180 days)
  - A description of the process used to manage any "free liquids" (if applicable)

## What solvents fall under this standard?

Many of the common solvents used are included in this exemption. Examples are:

Acetone	Methanol
Benzene	Methyl ethyl ketone
Ethyl acetate	Toluene
Isobutyl alcohol	Xylenes