



## Recommendations for dealing with Separator Water

The following advice is provided by Donegal County Council, having considered the recommendations in the EPA's "Best Practice Guidelines for Dry Cleaning".

### 1.8.2 Water - Separator Water

Aqueous emissions from dry cleaning consists of water from the water separator, which comes from various parts of the dry cleaning process (carbon adsorber regeneration, still cleaning, liquid detergents, clothes in the drum, etc.). Excess water from the water separator should ideally be drained on a daily basis when the machine is idle. Separator water contains a certain amount of dissolved perc, (typically 150 mg/litre which is the saturation level) and can often contain small amounts of free phase perc, which settles at the bottom of the separator water container, even where the water separator is automatically operated.

### Disposal of Water from Water Separator

Separator water should not be sent directly to drain and it is Donegal County Council's position that permission to do so will not be granted. In accordance with Best Practice, it must be collected by the operator for further treatment or disposal.



It is recommended that the collected separator water is stored in a suitable drum, depending on the volume being generated, such as that shown. Since perc is heavier than water, it will accumulate at the bottom of the container. Clean water, with a low perc content, should be allowed to settle out and can then be disposed of to drain, via the tap. Over time, the volume of free-phase perc in the bottom of the drum will increase & this can then be removed into a solvent waste drum for reclamation, or disposal by a licensed contractor. (Fitting a 2<sup>nd</sup>, low level tap, to the drum would facilitate this draw off of solvent).

It is important that workers are made aware of what the correct practice is in relation to handling separator water. Correct operation of the machine and regular maintenance are vital to minimise perc levels in water.

### 1.9.2 Safe Disposal of Solvent Containing Waste

Collected solvent hazardous waste from the still is usually unsuitable for reuse in the machine since it is contaminated with dirt, fibres, etc. In this case it needs to be handled properly and disposed of safely. Records of waste sent off-site must be maintained together with certificates of disposal. These will be open to inspection.

- NEVER allow waste solvent enter any drains, sewers or water courses, or be discarded on the ground.
- NEVER dispose of solvent materials as part of domestic waste.
- ALWAYS use a company who has the correct waste licence or waste permit and waste collection permit.
- Ask for and retain a copy of their waste licence/permit.
- Under law, you can still be held responsible for your waste, even after you hand it over to someone else.

For further information, please refer to the EPA's "Best Practice Guidelines for Dry Cleaning", available at [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie).

For information on permitted contractors, please refer to the Waste Regulation Officer, Donegal Co. Council, Lifford, (074-9172222).