



Environment, Health & Safety

Shop Talk

SHOP RAG DO's & DON'Ts

Shop rags may or may not be a hazardous waste depending on how they were used. If rags are used with hazardous solvents, the used rags potentially become a hazardous waste. The recommended way to deal with rags is to use an industrial rag service/laundry. Shop rags collected and laundered by a licensed launderer are not considered hazardous waste because they are being reused. If a rag service is not used, then you must determine that your rags are not hazardous before putting them in your trash.

DOs

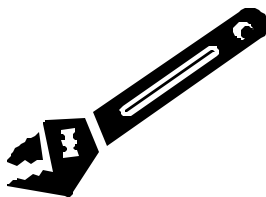
Do keep soiled shop rags in a closed container that is clearly marked "USED SHOP RAGS."

Do use less hazardous cleaning solvents (i.e., ones without chlorinated compounds), whenever possible.

Do keep lids on containers to prevent spills.

Do wring excess liquids from rags into the appropriate container before sending them to the launderer. For example, rags containing used oil should be wrung into the used oil collection drum.

Do set up a control system to limit rag use. Three containers marked "CLEAN RAGS", "REUSABLE RAGS", AND "DIRTY SHOP RAGS" will encourage employees to reuse rags as appropriate.



DON'Ts

Don't use disposable paper towels, wipes, or rags if the materials are expected to come in contact with a hazardous waste.

Don't throw dirty wipes or rags into your dumpster if they have come in contact with a hazardous waste.

Don't saturate rags.

Don't add shop rags containing free liquids to the rag collection bin.

Don't dispose of solvents by pouring them into containers of used shop rags.

*For more information concerning the proper management and reuse of shop rags, contact Sharon Myers in the Dept. of Environment, Health, and Safety at **962-9752, 962-5507** or via email at **samyers@email.unc.edu**.*