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[www.epa.gov/osw](http://www.epa.gov/osw)

## EPA Proposes Conditional Exclusions From the Definition of Hazardous Waste and the Definition of Solid Waste For Solvent-Contaminated Wipes

*The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to modify the hazardous waste management system for industrial wipes that have been contaminated by hazardous solvents. The Agency believes that this proposal would improve clarity and consistency in the regulation of industrial wipes, provide regulatory relief, and save affected facilities over \$30 million per year.*

### Action

The main provisions of EPA's proposal are (1) a conditional exclusion from the definition of hazardous waste for disposable industrial wipes contaminated with listed or characteristic solvents when they go to disposal, and (2) a conditional exclusion from the definition of solid waste for reusable industrial wipes contaminated with listed or characteristic solvents when they go to laundries or industrial dry cleaners to be cleaned and reused.

EPA is requesting comment for 90 days following publication of this proposal in the *Federal Register*.

### Background

Over three billion industrial wipes are used in conjunction with solvents annually in various industry sectors, including, but not limited to publishing, printing, and automobile manufacturing and maintenance. The proposed rule applies to both disposable and reusable industrial wipes used with solvents that are listed or characteristic when spent. EPA estimates that this rule would affect 68,000 to 163,000 facilities.

Developed with input from and collaboration with many stakeholders, EPA's proposal would replace a policy from the early 1990s that deferred regulatory determinations regarding solvent-contaminated industrial wipes to the authorized state or the EPA region implementing the regulations.

**For More Information**

This fact sheet and other information related to this proposal are available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/dsw/abr.htm>. For additional information, or to order paper copies of any documents, call the RCRA Call Center. Callers within the Washington Metropolitan Area please dial 703-412-9810 or TDD 703-412-3323 (hearing impaired). Long-distance callers please call 1-800-424-9346 or TDD 1-800-553-7672. The RCRA Call Center operates weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Address written requests to: RCRA-Docket@epa.gov or RCRA Information Center (5305T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001.