



Do you use shop towels for cleaning operations?

Would you like to improve this process in the following areas?

- **Meeting environmental compliance regulations** -- Reduce hazardous waste disposal. Applicable regulatory area is RCRA.
- **Improving workers' safety and health** -- No change from current operations.
- **Increasing productivity** -- Eliminate hazardous waste management requirements for used shop rags.
- **Saving money** -- Reduce operating costs by eliminating the disposal of used rags and lowering the cost for procuring clean rags.



Shop towel recycling contracts are open to all DOD activities FY98-FY01. Contracts are for cleaning oil, grease, and hydraulic fluid contaminated rags. Awarded by NAVSUPSYSCOM Fleet Industrial and Supply Centers to reduce the cost of maintenance and hazardous waste disposal, contracts span 31 states and the District of Columbia. Users may save unit costs of \$0.63 to \$1.61 over purchase/disposal. Shop towels are 100% cotton and measure 18" by 18". Towels are routinely used for shop maintenance to replace typical baled rags. A contractor delivers new towels when ordered, and replaces HAZMAT-soaked towels with clean towels within EPA guidelines. By using these contracts, activities reduce the procurement cost and eliminate disposal costs associated with performing maintenance using baled rags. Contracts are flexible and easy to use with either government credit card or delivery order.

How can you achieve these improvements?

Participate in the Regional Rag Rental Program.

How does this program work?

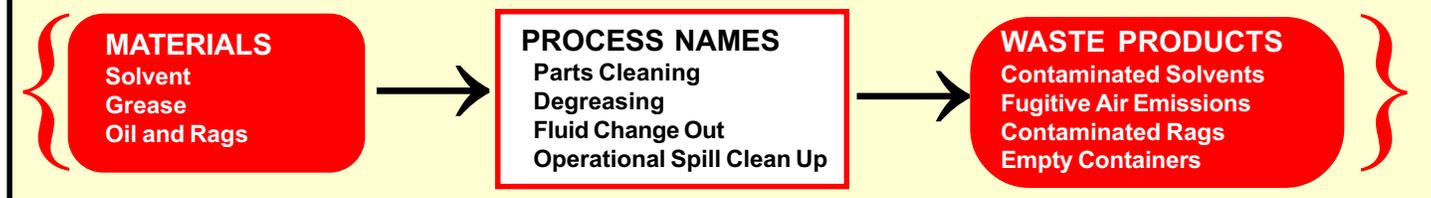
A contractor delivers new towels when ordered, replaces dirty towels with clean towels, and launders the dirty towels within EPA guidelines.

How will this program save you money?

By using the Regional Rag Rental Program, activities eliminate procurement and disposal costs associated with baled rags.



Typical Process Flow Diagram



How can this program eliminate or reduce pollution?

This program will eliminate the need for disposal of contaminated shop rags as hazardous waste.

Which shops can benefit most from this program?

This program can be used in processes that use rags. Typical shops include:

- Automotive & Aircraft Maintenance
- Ship & Facilities Maintenance
- Support Equipment Maintenance

Take action: How can you implement this program?

- **Activity Shop & Work Center Personnel.** Contact your Pollution Prevention Program Manager. The P2 Program Manager can provide more information and conduct a more detailed analysis.

- **For Additional Technical Information.** More information about this measure can be found on DENIX (Web: <http://www.denix.cecer.army.mil/denix/Public/News/NAVSUP424>).

Achieving Environmental Compliance Through Pollution Prevention

Every day the Navy faces the challenge of operating and maintaining the fleet while complying with environmental regulations. This burden can be reduced by implementing pollution prevention technologies and methods to reduce compliance requirements. This Fact Sheet is one in a series designed to encourage activities to implement pollution prevention technologies and methods. The overall goal of this series is to promote sustained environmental compliance at the lowest life-cycle cost.

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