What is the Wet Cleaning Technology Virtual Tradeshow?

The “Wet Cleaning Technology Virtual Tradeshow” is an online resource that enables garment cleaners, consultants, and government technical assistance providers to conduct effective comparisons of available wet cleaning systems in a side-by-side format.

The information available in the tradeshow is supplied by the system vendors and covers laundry capacity; the height, weight, and depth of the machines; the water, waste, and energy impacts; and other considerations.

The tradeshow currently focuses on garment wet cleaning washers and dryers.

Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association (NEWMOA)

NEWMOA is an interstate organization that was established by the New England Governors and recognized by the EPA in 1986. The Association’s membership is composed of the state environmental agency directors of hazardous waste, solid waste, waste site cleanup, underground storage tank, and pollution prevention programs in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

NEWMOA’s mission is to develop and sustain an effective partnership of states that helps achieve a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment by exploring, developing, promoting, and implementing environmentally sound solutions for reducing materials use and preventing pollution; properly reusing and recycling discarded materials that have value; safely managing solid and hazardous waste; and remediating contaminated sites.

Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx™)

The Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx™) is a national partnership of regional pollution prevention information centers funded in part through grants from EPA. P2Rx advances pollution prevention and sustainability by building networks, delivering P2 information, and measuring P2 program results. The strength of the network lies in the expertise and diversity among the regional centers and the variety of audiences served including government and state environmental agencies, technical assistance providers, businesses, educators, nonprofit organizations, and the general public.

As the Northeast P2Rx Regional Center, NEWMOA provides P2 information and other services to state and local governments and other environmental assistance providers in the region.
Why Wet Clean?

Hazards of Perchloroethylene
Approximately 85 percent of dry cleaners in the U.S. use perchloroethylene (perc) as the primary cleaning solvent. However, there are a number of adverse health effects associated with the use ofperc including: dizziness, headaches, impaired judgment, and possibly cancer. Perc from dry cleaning operations can be a source of groundwater contamination and is considered to be a toxic air contaminant. Finally, there are liability concerns related to the use of perc and a number of applicable OSHA and EPA regulations to control potential exposures and releases.

Benefits of Wet Cleaning
Wet cleaning is a safe and effective alternative for garment care. Some of the health and environmental benefits of switching from perc dry cleaning to wet cleaning include: comparable cleaning of garments; elimination of hazardous waste; reduced potential for exposure of communities, employees, and customers to perc; and lower use of water, natural gas, and electricity. In addition, the operating costs for wet cleaning washers and dryers are often the same or lower than using traditional machines.

Wet Cleaning Technology
Professional wet cleaning technologies consist of computer-controlled washers and dryers, specially formulated cleaning agents, and tensioners or finishing equipment. Clothes labeled as “dry-clean-only” can be washed with water and specially formulated wet-cleaning soaps/detergents, dried in moisture-controlled machines, and then finished with tensioning and pressing equipment. The result is clothes that look and feel as clean as if they were dry-cleaned, but without the associated negative health and environmental impacts.

For Dry Cleaners and Technical Assistance Providers:
• Compare available wet cleaning washers and dryers in a side-by-side format
• Browse machine attributes such as: laundry capacity and physical dimensions, and reductions in water, energy, and waste
• Post reviews on equipment that you’ve purchased, or submit comments and questions to vendors

For Vendors:
• Provide up-to-date information about your wet cleaning washers and dryers in a secure format
• Promote services that you offer and identify ways in which your technology differs from competitors
• Upload fact sheets, brochures, case studies, photographs, and other marketing materials

Check it out at: www.newmoa.org/prevention/projects/wetclean