
Environmental Fact Sheet



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

October 1999

1999 Evergreen Award For Pollution Prevention

45th Avenue Cleaners

Portland, Oregon

The Environmental Protection Agency's 1999 Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention recognizes the outstanding environmental efforts of 45th Avenue Cleaners of Portland, Oregon.

Pollution Prevention Success

- * New "state of the art" dry cleaning machine with leak containment and regenerative filters, installed in 1997, has reduced solvent use by 80% and solvent waste by more than 60%
- * A water treatment unit eliminates wastewater discharges, and a chlorofluorocarbon leak detection device keeps coolant use to a minimum.
- * "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" is a mindset at 45th Avenue Cleaners:
 - Recycling of paper and metal wire hangers has reduced the shop's solid waste by almost 80%.
 - Customers can return old polyethylene garment bags and wire hangers for recycling;
 - Reusable garment bags are available to customers at no charge;
 - Customers get a \$5.00 credit when returning hangers with the paper capes already removed;
 - New garment bags arrive on 32-pound rolls (more bags per roll = less paper cores and cardboard containers);
 - Supply orders are placed by electronic mail, when possible; and
 - All used packaging, paper and scrap metal hangers are recycled "curbside,"
- * Hazardous waste is disposed of through a local waste management company that offers its own innovative recycling and reclaiming of solvent wastes.
- * Wet cleaning, a non-solvent based technology that creates no hazardous waste, is used to clean approximately 1/3 of the shop's garment volume.

Commitment to Environmental Quality

Brian Olson, owner of the 45th Avenue Cleaners, is the first (and so far only) *Certified Environmental Drycleaner* in the Portland area. To earn this industry certification, sponsored by the International Fabricare Institute, dry cleaners are required to pass a test that demonstrates knowledge and expertise in environmental issues related to dry cleaning, and must agree to a set of professional standards and operate their business in an environmentally responsible manner.

With its small and dedicated staff, ongoing employee training at 45th Avenue Cleaners is both instant and constant. All new information is shared immediately with staff members, and an extensive library is maintained on site for fast and easy reference.

Environmental Leadership

45th Avenue Cleaners is a proactive leader of environmentally friendly and socially responsible efforts within the drycleaning community.

In addition to supporting such causes as "Gender Neutral Pricing" and the "Coats for Kids" program, Mr. Olson is active in legislative issues pertaining to the Oregon dry cleaning industry as a District Director for the Oregon Dry Cleaners Association. A member of the International Fabricare Institute, the Neighborhood Cleaning Association- International and other related forums, Mr. Olson has the opportunity to share his insight on the wet cleaning system and the Environmental Certification program with other many other cleaners in the region.

45th Street Cleaners was recently recognized as a Model Cleaner by the National Waste Prevention Coalition for pioneering new approaches to waste prevention in the dry cleaning industry. **For more information about 45th Avenue Cleaners' environmental achievements, contact Brian Olson at (503) 244-9707.**

The Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention

EPA's *Evergreen Award* recognizes outstanding pollution prevention efforts within all sectors of the greater Pacific Northwest business community.

For more information about EPA Region 10's *Evergreen Award for Pollution Prevention*, contact:

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