



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH & SAFETY**

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FACT SHEET**

### **Solvent-Contaminated Towels, Rags, or Wipes (Wipers)**

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Solvent contaminated towels, rags, and wipes (wipers) are often generated during equipment cleaning, disinfection, maintenance, and painting. The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (NDWEE) regulates the disposal of certain wipers in Title 128 – Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations. Depending on what the wipers are contaminated with, they should be disposed of using the guidelines below.

#### **Wipers Regulated as Hazardous Waste:**

Wipers with the following characteristics must be collected as hazardous waste:

- Containing free liquid (wet and dripping) that cannot be drain disposed.
- Contaminated with heavy metals (e.g., lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium, barium, arsenic, or silver).
- Contaminated with a toxic or easily ignitable solvent (ex: linseed oil), where the solvent has not been consumed in the process.
- Contaminated with “P” or “U” listed chemicals.

Wipers that meet these characteristics must be collected and disposed of following [UNO's Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal Requirements](#).

#### **Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipers:**

Solvent wipers without the characteristics listed above must be collected as excluded solvent-contaminated wipers. The following collection requirements must be followed for wipers intended for disposal or reuse:

- Wipers must be accumulated in a non-leaking and closeable container.
- The container must be labeled “excluded solvent-contaminated wipers”
- The date accumulation first started (when the first wiper was dropped into the container) must be recorded on the container.
- No free liquids are permissible in the container.

If the wipers are to be disposed of, EHS will pick up the wipers within 180 days of the accumulation start date. If wipers are to be reused, they must be gathered and laundered within 180 days of the accumulation start date.

