



## ***Tetrachloroethylene (Use in Dry Cleaning and Reporting Requirements) Regulations***

### **PERC Pointer #4**

#### **Secondary Containment Systems**

**Prevent  
spills!**



#### **WHAT?**

Any containers or tanks holding tetrachloroethylene (PERC), waste water or residue (e.g., sludge, lint and used filters) must have a secondary containment system.

#### **Secondary containment systems must:**

1. Be made of a PERC-impermeable material;
2. Cover at least the entire surface under the machine or container that holds PERC, waste water or residue; and
3. Be able to hold a volume equal to 110%\* of the largest tank or storage container.

\*See PERC Pointer #5: Is Your Secondary Containment System Large Enough?

For more information,  
please see our website  
[www.ec.gc.ca/regs-tetra](http://www.ec.gc.ca/regs-tetra)



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## HOW?

Typically, this means placing the dry-cleaning machine, waste water bucket, sludge drum, waste water treatment system, etc. inside another container, such as a spill tray, pan, platform or pallet.

***PERC-impermeable material*** can completely stop PERC from passing through. Rubber and bare concrete are not PERC-impermeable materials. Corrosion-resistant or stainless steel is a commonly used PERC-impermeable material. Contact your hazardous waste specialist to discuss PERC-impermeable secondary containment options.

## WHY?

Secondary containment systems provide a second line of defense against PERC leaks. This helps to:

- Reduce the risks of environmental contamination;
- Reduce time and cost of any PERC spill cleanup;
- Reduce workplace hazards; and
- Protect the facility and equipment from damage.

### Regulatory Compliance

Environment Canada undertakes regular inspections in order to verify compliance with the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* and its regulations. Investigations are conducted when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred. In situations of non-compliance, enforcement officers may issue a warning or an environmental protection compliance order, proceed with prosecution, or take some other enforcement action, depending on the circumstances (see the *Compliance and Enforcement Policy for the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* at [www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/default.asp?lang=En&n=5082BFBE-1](http://www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/default.asp?lang=En&n=5082BFBE-1)).

Where an officer proceeds with prosecution and a conviction is obtained, the Court may order a fine and/or imprisonment. In 2012, maximum fines were increased and mandatory minimum fines were introduced for certain specified offences. For further information, consult Environment Canada's website at [www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/default.asp?lang=En&n=66B8D849-1](http://www.ec.gc.ca/lcpe-cepa/default.asp?lang=En&n=66B8D849-1).