



Technical tips – Alternative Solvents

07/01/2013

Is Perc being banned? Is it still available? Those are some of the questions being asked by those who are still using Perc. Even though it is still the most popular solvent and cleans very well, aging Dry Cleaning machines, increased regulations and solvent taxes are turning heads towards alternatives.

Which of the alternatives is best for me? That is another question being asked by Perc operators. Solvents such as GreenEarth, DF2000 (hydrocarbon) and EcoSolv (hydrocarbon) have been in the market for some time now with good success and others like Solvon K4 are gaining ground. Machine and solvent costs are huge considerations, but things like wash and dry times, fees/licenses, products required and solvent mileage should also be looked at very closely. Below is some information on alternative solvents.

- GreenEarth
 - Cycle length 60 min.
 - Wash time 17 min.
 - Dry time 35 min.
 - Average cost per gallon \$21-\$24
- Hydrocarbon (DF 2000)
 - Cycle length 1 bath 50-60 min, 2 bath 55-65 min.
 - Wash time 18-20 min
 - Dry time 28 min
 - Average cost per gallon \$13-\$14
- Solvon K4
 - Cycle length 1 bath 60 min, 2 bath 70 min.
 - Wash time 7-10 min
 - Dry time 48 min, with cool down.
 - Average cost per gallon \$31.

For more information on alternative solvents contact your FabriClean supply representative. Also the members section of the Dry Cleaning and Laundry Institute (DLI) website has great info on a wide range of topics including alternative solvents.