

Good Practices

Spot Cleaning Operations

Because spot-cleaning chemicals can be dangerous, spot cleaning operations should be kept separate from the main production area. Workers who use spot cleaning chemicals should be given safety equipment and clothing. Factories which have good spot cleaning operations can save money by reducing absenteeism and improving the health and morale of workers. A safe factory can also help to increase sales because working conditions are important to many garment buyers.

Good practices for spot cleaning operations

- Isolate the spot cleaning operation from the production area by containing it in a separate room (Figure 1).
- Ensure that the spot cleaning room has clean air at all times by fitting fans and a local exhaust system (Figure 2).
- Fans in the spot cleaning room should not blow air towards the workers as this can result in the workers breathing in the chemicals (Figure 2).
- Spot cleaning workers should be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves, safety goggles, masks and overalls.
- Many factories use spot cleaning chemicals which contain *trichloroethylene*. *Trichloroethylene* is toxic and can cause serious harm. It is especially important that workers wear PPE to prevent them from touching or breathing in this chemical (Figures 2 & 3).
- Ensure that workers are educated on how to properly handle chemicals. Material Safety Data Sheets must be provided in Khmer.
- Make sure workers and medical staff know what to do in case dangerous chemicals get spilt or a worker gets injured.
- Make sure workers know how to properly dispose of chemicals.

Benefits:

- ✓ Safer working environment
- ✓ Healthier workers
- ✓ Workers are happier when they no longer have to tolerate unpleasant smells, headaches or irritation to eyes and skin
- ✓ Minimises health risks of long term exposure to chemicals
- ✓ Reduces absenteeism due to medical conditions
- ✓ Improves productivity

How:

- ✓ Identify a suitable space for the spot cleaning room
- ✓ Purchase necessary personal protective equipment (PPE)
- ✓ Set up of the spot cleaning room can be done by the factory's workshop staff

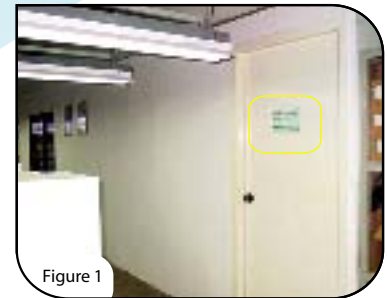


Figure 1

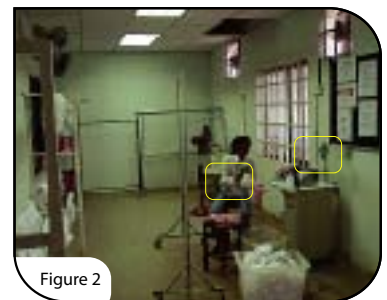


Figure 2



Figure 3

Cost:

\$

\$ Low cost

\$\$ Moderate cost

\$\$\$ High cost