

Good Practices

Spot Cleaning Area

Spot cleaning is necessary in garment manufacturing, but some of the chemicals used can be dangerous. It is necessary to protect people who work in or near the spot cleaning area from chemicals, including chemical fumes. In particular, Trichloroethylene, a toxic chemical commonly used in spot cleaning, needs special care. It can cause harm if it is breathed in or if it touches the skin.

Good practices for spot cleaning area

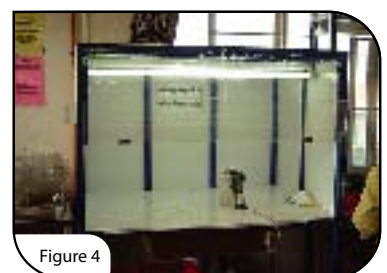
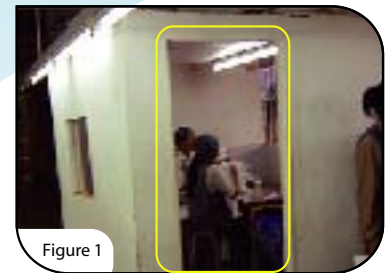
- Use a special room in a separate location for the spot cleaning area (Figure 1).
- Install exhaust ventilation fans in the spot cleaning area to make sure that clean air flows towards the workers and chemical fumes flow away from the workers. **Caution:** the air must not flow towards the worker's face or they will breathe in the chemical (Figure 2).
- Use water and detergent for spot cleaning instead of chemicals whenever possible.
- Provide workers with proper personal protective equipment such as appropriate masks, overalls, gloves and safety goggles. **Caution:** Dust masks are not suitable as they trap the chemical over the worker's face (Figure 3).
- Display Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) in places where everybody can see them.
- Make sure that workers read and understand MSDSs so that they learn about the dangers of the chemicals being used (Figure 4).
- 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:

- ✓ Protects workers from direct and indirect exposure to spot cleaning chemicals
- ✓ Protects workers from getting sick - including short and long-term diseases
- ✓ Saves cost of medical treatment
- ✓ Minimizes absenteeism from sickness
- ✓ Ensures a safer working environment

How:

- ✓ Make a separate spot cleaning room at the factory
- ✓ Display this Guide and MSDS on the walls of the spot cleaning room
- ✓ Personal protective equipment such as gloves and overalls are available in local markets
- ✓ Safety goggles and filter respirator masks (for gases and solvents) may be available in commercial markets



Cost:

\$ - \$\$

\$ Low cost

\$\$ Moderate cost

\$\$\$ High cost