

# Perchloroethylene (PERC) Equipment Replacement Voucher: Information for business owners



Figure 1. Clothes hang on a rack at a dry cleaning business.

**Ecology is offering reimbursements** to switch your perchloroethylene (PERC) equipment to a safer alternative.

Get up to:

- \$40,000 to switch to professional wet cleaning, or
- \$10,000 to switch to hydrocarbon.

## Professional wet cleaning:

- Lowers your operating costs in the long run.
- Eliminates hazardous waste.
- Creates a healthier working environment for your employees.
- Is safer for the environment.

## To qualify for the reimbursement, you must:

- Be a Washington State licensed business.
- Properly dispose of all detergents, spot cleaners, and other chemicals used with your old PERC machine.
- Clean and recycle your old PERC machine as scrap metal.
- Allow Ecology or its representatives to oversee disposal activities.  
We must verify that you have disposed of your old machine and the chemicals you used with it.

## For more information

To see if you qualify for this reimbursement, call or email Sean Smith at [sean.smith@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sean.smith@ecy.wa.gov) or 206-594-0029.

## What equipment can I be reimbursed for?

If you qualify, you may only be reimbursed for the purchase of professional wet cleaning **or** hydrocarbon equipment. You may get up to \$40,000 for professional wet cleaning or up to \$10,000 for hydrocarbon.

## Do I need to buy different products for my new equipment?

Follow your vendor's recommendations when choosing detergents and conditioners for the system that you choose. Replace your old products and spotting agents with ones recommended by your vendor for the new machine.

## What do I do with the products I already have?

You must properly dispose of your old spot cleaners, detergents, sizing, and other chemicals. Contact your county to see if you qualify to use their household hazardous waste disposal site to dispose of this waste.

## Do I need tensioning equipment if I am switching to professional wet cleaning?

Yes. You will need a tensioning pants topper and a tensioning form finisher.

## What is the process for getting the reimbursement?

1. Contact your [local representative](#)<sup>1</sup> to determine if you qualify.
2. Work with your local representative to fill out the Equipment Replacement Voucher form. To complete, you will need to schedule three separate visits:
  - Technical Assistance Visit, where you will begin filling out the form with your representative.
  - Decommissioning visit, where you will schedule an Ecology representative to be on site to witness decommissioning and disposal of your current equipment.
  - Post-installation visit, where your PPA rep will review your equipment installation and finalize the paperwork with you.
3. The voucher manager will review your paperwork and send you a check for the approved reimbursement amount once your paperwork is processed.

## How much will it cost to replace my PERC machine?

Costs can vary significantly from business to business. It depends how easy it is to remove your PERC machine, install your new one, the capacity of the new machine, whether you need to buy pressing and tensioning equipment, and whether you need to modify your shop (like electrical and ventilation upgrades).

The total cost typically ranges between:

- \$40,000 and \$60,000 for professional wet cleaning.
- \$40,000 and \$75,000 for hydrocarbon cleaning.

## How long will my shop be closed?

It will take at least 2-3 days to remove your PERC machine and start using your new equipment. Some training may also be required. Check with your vendors for an estimated time.

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<sup>1</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/PPA](http://ecology.wa.gov/PPA)