

Facts About...

Perc Dry Cleaning General Permit

Purpose of this Fact Sheet – This fact sheet outlines basic information regarding the General Permit to Construct, frequently asked questions and instructions on how to request coverage under the General Permit to Construct for Perc Dry Cleaning Equipment. The fact sheet is not a permit and should be used as a guide only. For additional information on specific regulatory and administrative requirements, see the General Permit to Construct document for Perc Dry Cleaning Equipment or contact the Maryland Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation Management Administration at (410) 537-3230.

All installations, which are potential sources of air pollution, are regulated and require a permit or approval from the Maryland Department of the Environment (“the Department”), except those installations that are specifically exempt under the State’s Air Quality Regulations, Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.11.02.10. To allow faster processing of permits, the Department has decided to regulate certain small stationary source installations through the issuance of Air Quality General Permits to Construct.



1. Do I need a permit for a perc dry cleaning machine?

YES! No matter how small it is, or how little you use it, you need a permit for each perc dry cleaning machine.

2. What about those new non-perc machines, do they need a permit?

As a rule, no, they do not need a permit. CO₂, silicone, water, DF2000 and many other types are exempt from the permitting process. Contact the Department at (410) 537-3230 to ask about a specific machine.

3. What’s special about this general permit?



It’s fast and easy. It only takes about 10-15 minutes to fill out the application. If you can stay within the limits of the general permit, it’s the way to go!

It’s an instant permit. When you send in the application with payment, the permit is in effect that moment. We will send you an acknowledgement letter in a few weeks. With the regular permit application, it can take up to 90 days to get your permit. And the dry cleaning machine cannot be installed or operated until you have your permit.

4. What's it cost?

\$500 per dry cleaning machine. Tandem machines are permitted as two individual machines.

5. What are the limits of the general permit?

Your dry cleaning business must:



Use less than 450 gallons of perc per year;



Have only dry-to-dry type machines;



Not be co-residential;

6. What if I outgrow the general permit?

You will need to obtain a regular permit before you outgrow the general permit. Contact the Department at (410) 537-3230 to request the application forms. Or, you can download them from <http://www.mde.state.md.us/airpermits>. Call us, and we'll gladly help you fill the forms out.

7. What's this co-residential stuff?

On July 27, 2006 the EPA finalized revised regulations for perc drycleaners. Part of the revision included the total elimination of emissions on machines in a co-residential building, effectively banning them. This means if there is an apartment or dwelling anywhere in the building, new dry cleaning machines cannot be installed, and all old ones must be removed by 2020.

8. Carbon adsorption?

All machines installed after December 21, 2005 must have non-vented carbon adsorption in addition to a refrigerated condenser.

9. Testing & Inspections?

The revised regulations for perc drycleaners include the additional requirement of monthly inspections of the outside of the machine with testing equipment.

All machines installed after December 21, 2005 must have this monthly inspection done on them now.

All machines installed before December 21, 2005 have until July 27 2008 to comply with this requirement.

10. Special Testing Equipment?

The monthly inspection of the outside of the system can be done with a PCE gas analyzer or a halogenated hydrocarbon detector.

Here are the definitions of these pieces of test equipment, straight from the EPA regulations.

- *PCE gas analyzer* means a flame ionization detector, photoionization detector, or infrared analyzer capable of detecting vapor concentrations of perc of 24 parts per million by volume.
- *Halogenated hydrocarbon detector* means a portable device capable of detecting vapor concentrations of perc of 25 parts per million by volume and indicating a concentration of 24 parts per million by volume or greater by emitting an audible or visual signal that varies as the concentration changes

11. Where can I find these new EPA regulations?

At <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/dryperc/dryclpg.html>.

12. How do I apply for a General Permit?

In order to obtain coverage, you must get a General Permit to Construct Package from the Department and complete the included Request for Coverage Form. You can get a General Permit to Construct package from the Department by:

- 👍 Calling the Department at (410) 537-3230
- 👍 Downloading it from the Department's web site at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/airpermits>
- 👍 Writing to the Department at:
Maryland Department of the Environment
Air and Radiation Management Administration
1800 Washington Blvd, STE 720
Baltimore, MD 21230-1720



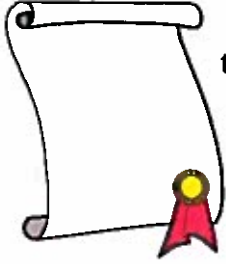
- Fill out the Request for Coverage form completely,
- Make a check (\$500 per machine) payable to MDE Clean Air Fund, and
- Submit the Request for Coverage form with the payment to:
MDE/ARMA
PO Box 2037
Baltimore, MD 21203-2037

The rest of the General Permit to Construct Package, including the General Permit document, should be kept for your own site records.

13. When will my coverage begin?

Coverage will begin on the day that you submit a complete application with full payment. If the application is incomplete, inaccurate or if the permit fee is not paid, coverage under the General Permit will be considered void. You will also not be covered if your facility does not meet the restrictions of this General Permit.

14. Will I receive a Permit to hang on the wall?



No, you will not receive a permit to hang on the wall. Your copy of the permit is included in the application package. It's the bordered pages.

A few weeks after you send in your application we will send you a letter acknowledging the receipt of your application and fee payment. Retain a copy of this notification letter with the General Permit to Construct document and verification of your payment for your own site records.

*If you have additional questions,
please call the Department at
(410) 537-3230.*

