

Garment Cleaning Program



CASE STUDY

Saving Energy and Increasing Quality by Switching to Wet Cleaning

All Fabric Cleaners, located at 2316 North Ocean Avenue, Farmingville, New York operated with a toxic chemical called perchloroethylene (perc), as their dry cleaning solution for 15 years.

Challenge

The owner of All Fabric Cleaners, Yong Choi was interested in the promise that professional wet cleaning is not only healthier for the environment and his employees but it can clean many garments better than perc.

Solution

All Fabric Cleaners was selected for New York State Pollution Prevention Institute's (NYSP2I) Wet Cleaning Conversion Program. This program is a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 jointly funded initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to cleaners converting their operations from perc dry cleaning to professional wet cleaning.

NYSP2I's Wet Cleaning Conversion Program provided All Fabric Cleaners the opportunity to install a professional wet cleaning system. This system consisted of a washer, dryer, top tensioner, and pant tensioner. The wet cleaning system outperformed Mr. Choi's expectations and was removed three months later.

Results

Since the conversion to wet cleaning, quality has increased, as shown by more than a 99% reduction in sendouts, redos, and claims. Electricity usage has decreased by one third along with natural gas usage. In addition to saving money, perc use and its associated health and environmental effects as well as hazardous waste have been eliminated. Most importantly, the employee morale is higher because the environment is cleaner without the smell of perc and their customers are pleased with the quality of cleaned garments.

Metrics	Estimated Annual Savings
Performance	99.96% reduction in quality defects
Electricity usage	33% reduction
Natural gas usage	30% reduction
Detergent & Spotter usage	11% reduction
Perc used for cleaning	173 gallons, 100% eliminated
Filters & equipment maintenance	100% eliminated
Hazardous waste disposal	766 pounds, 100% eliminated
Perc air pollution	852 pounds, 100% eliminated
NYSDEC permit	permit eliminated
Total	13% reduction in operating costs

Comparing Jan- Dec 2010 and Jan-Dec 2013 operating data. Data are normalized to pieces cleaned in 2012.

CHALLENGE

- Switch from perc dry cleaning to professional wet cleaning

SOLUTION

- Rainbow Cleaners was selected for NYSP2I's Wet Cleaning Conversion Program, a NYSDEC and USEPA Region 2 jointly funded initiative which helped them convert operations to professional wet cleaning

RESULTS

- Quality has increased, as shown by more than a 99% reduction in sendouts, redos, and claims
- Electricity usage has decreased by one third and natural gas usage has decreased
- Perc use and its associated health and environmental effects have been removed

TESTIMONIAL

"I am beyond happy with the performance of wet cleaning. I am able to wet clean all garments that I was dry cleaning before. With wet cleaning, the clothes come out cleaner, we don't pay to get rid of perc, and my employees are happy because our shop is healthier." – Yong Choi, Owner - All Fabric Cleaners

NYSP2I PARTNERS

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10 Regional Technology Development Centers

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