

WHAT IS MEANT BY 'RESIDUE' AND 'WASTE' ?

The terms "residue" and "waste" are frequently confused. This is how ECSA defines them:

RESIDUE is spent solvent emptied from a degreaser or other equipment, containing contaminants from the cleaning process. Residues should be reprocessed to recover solvent, for instance by distillation.

Once solvent has been recovered from residue, what remains IS WASTE, which must be processed in a licensed waste treatment operation for final disposal or destruction.

The European Chlorinated Solvent Association is a sector group of CEFIC, (Conseil Européen des Fédérations de l'Industrie Chimique), the European Chemical Industry Association. ECSA is the European focal point for dialogue about chlorinated solvents with regulators, legislators, users of chlorinated solvents, trade associations and the general public throughout Europe. The members of ECSA promote environmentally safe and economically viable use of chlorinated solvents by providing information and support to all those who have an interest in chlorinated solvents.

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European Chlorinated Solvent Association

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF CHLORINATED SOLVENT DISPOSAL:

A QUICK GUIDE



European Chlorinated Solvent Association

THE DO'S

- 1 Do ensure that all information about chlorinated solvent residues required by law is available to your employees. This includes information on accumulation, treatment, storage, transport and disposal. Your supplier or local trade association should be able to provide you with this information. Insist upon a material Safety Data Sheet from your fresh solvent supplier.
- 2 Do all you can to keep residues to a minimum:
 - Check if it is possible to recover solvent from the residue rather than disposing of it.
 - Avoid using more solvent than you need.
 - Check that you are not throwing away containers which still hold unused solvent.
- 3 Do ensure residues are handled with the same care as fresh solvent. The health risks are at least as great, so make sure the same procedures are followed.
- 4 Do avoid mixing residues of different solvent. Contamination makes solvent recovery less efficient.
- 5 Do make sure a suitable container is ready to collect each type of residue generated.
- 6 Do identify each type of residue and classify it according to the regulations in force.
- 7 Do label each container clearly before using it to collect residues.
- 8 Do ensure containers are in good condition. Inspect them regularly for leaks and corrosion and replace any faulty ones.
- 9 Do store containers in a protected and bunded area, in the same way as you would store fresh solvent.
- 10 Do store different types of residue separately.
- 11 Do store containers of chlorinated solvents separately from inflammable products.
- 12 Do ensure the collector, haulier and waste disposal contractor you hire are competent (and if necessary, licensed) to handle your residues.
- 13 Do ensure that drivers are fully trained and know how to handle your residues
- 14 Do have your contractor remove your residue regularly.
- 15 Do maintain records of all outgoing residues, recording the type of solvent, the quantity, the drum numbers (if appropriate) and the identity of the collector.
- 16 Do ensure your waste disposal contractor returns a copy of the Hazardous Waste Manifest.
- 17 Do check the quality of any recovered solvent you use.

THE DON'TS

- 1 Don't mix solvent residues, even in solid or paste form, with other residues or with domestic or industrial waste. The result may be contamination of soil, atmosphere and water and you could be liable for any damage caused to health or to the environment.
- 2 Don't dispose of residue if it is possible to recover solvent from it.
- 3 Don't leave residues unlabelled and unattended.
- 4 Don't mix hazardous and non-hazardous residues. This increases the total quantity of hazardous waste needing disposal.
- 5 Don't mix residues of different types of solvent (for instance, chlorinated and non-chlorinated solvents). This hampers solvent recovery.
- 6 Don't place solvent residue in the same container as alkalis, strong acids or any other chemical that could react with it. The result could be a hazardous situation, such as leakage or a release of vapour.
- 7 Don't put any waste material into residue containers. To prevent others doing this, keep the containers closed.
- 8 Don't leave containers of residue in working areas: they could be accidentally knocked over.
- 9 Don't mix up containers holding different types of residues: store each kind separately.
- 10 Don't let containers of residue accumulate. This increases the risk of spillage and ground pollution.
- 11 Don't trust your solvent residues to any collector or transporter unless he is licensed to handle them. The safe disposal of the residues remains your responsibility even if the haulier is not under your control.