

SOLVENT RAGS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Solvents on USAG-HI installations are used for different maintenance operations. Some solvents include harmful chemicals such as acetone, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), toluene, xylene, tetrachloroethylene, methylene chloride, and 1-1-1-trichloroethane. Solvents must be approved by submitting a request to the DPW Environmental Division to add it to the unit/activity Authorized Use List (AUL). **Do not use any solvent until it has been approved.** For more information contact the DPW Environmental Division Environmental Compliance Inspections program.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Rags contaminated with solvents may be hazardous to human health and the environment. Improper management of solvent rags may result in costly fines by the Hawaii Department of Health and/or the EPA.

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

Used solvent rags may be **HAZARDOUS WASTE**. Consult the DPW Environmental Compliance Inspections Program for assistance.

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

Step 1: Ensure that the use of any solvent has been approved by the DPW Environmental Division and is listed on the unit/activity AUL.

Step 2: Never discard solvent rags in the trash.

Step 3: Store all usable solvent contaminated rags in a closable metal container.

Step 4: Mark the used solvent rag container with the words “USED (name of solvent) RAGS”.

Step 5: The rags should be reused to the fullest extent possible. When the rags are no longer usable, place rags in a compatible container (typically a metal drum) in the HWSSP labeled “HAZARDOUS WASTE (name of solvent) RAGS” and with the hazard class of the waste. Always keep the container closed, unless adding rags to the container. Log in any waste solvent added to the container on the HW Collection Log.

Step 6: Contact the *Waste Pickup Request Line (808) 656-0867* to dispose of the rags.

