

# Safer Spotting Chemicals

Best Practices for Textile Cleaning -- May 2007

## Why and how are POG spotting chemicals used?

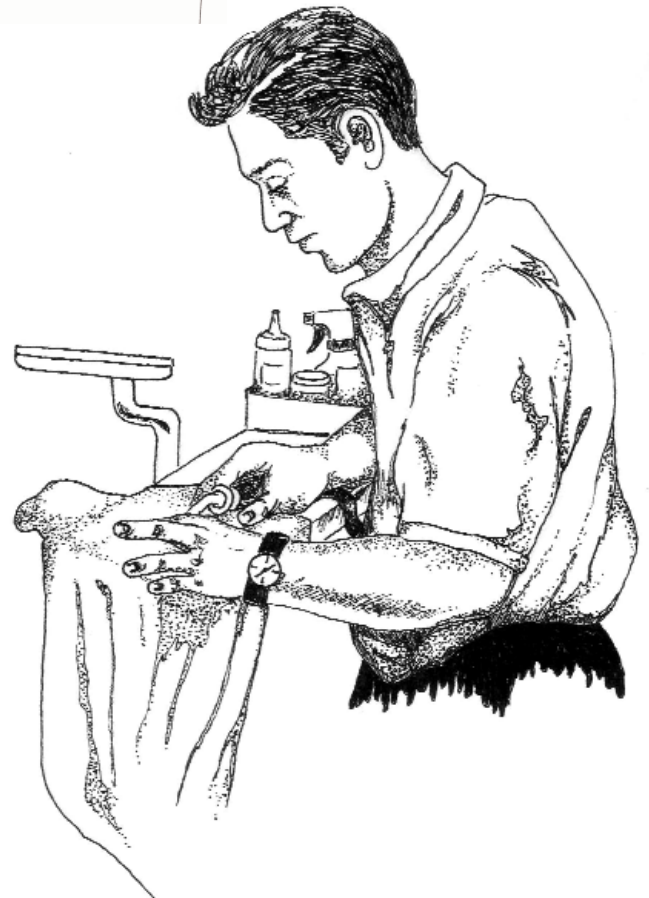
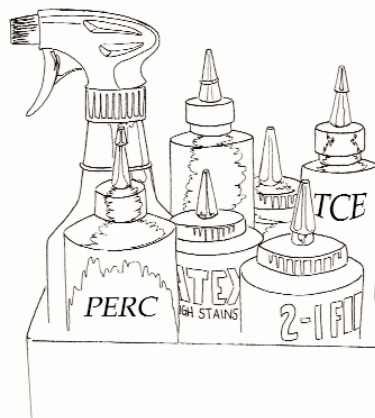
Paint, Oil and Grease (POG) spotting agents are used to remove spots from garments by professional textile cleaners. They are sprayed on spots before and after garments are processed through the garment cleaning machine.

## What are the commonly used POG spotting agents?

POG spotting agents containing trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PERC) are used widely by the garment cleaning industry.

## What are the toxicity problems with these spotting agents?

TCE and PERC are carcinogens and are heavily regulated in California. Spotters and other employees in garment cleaning plants are exposed to these dangerous chemicals.



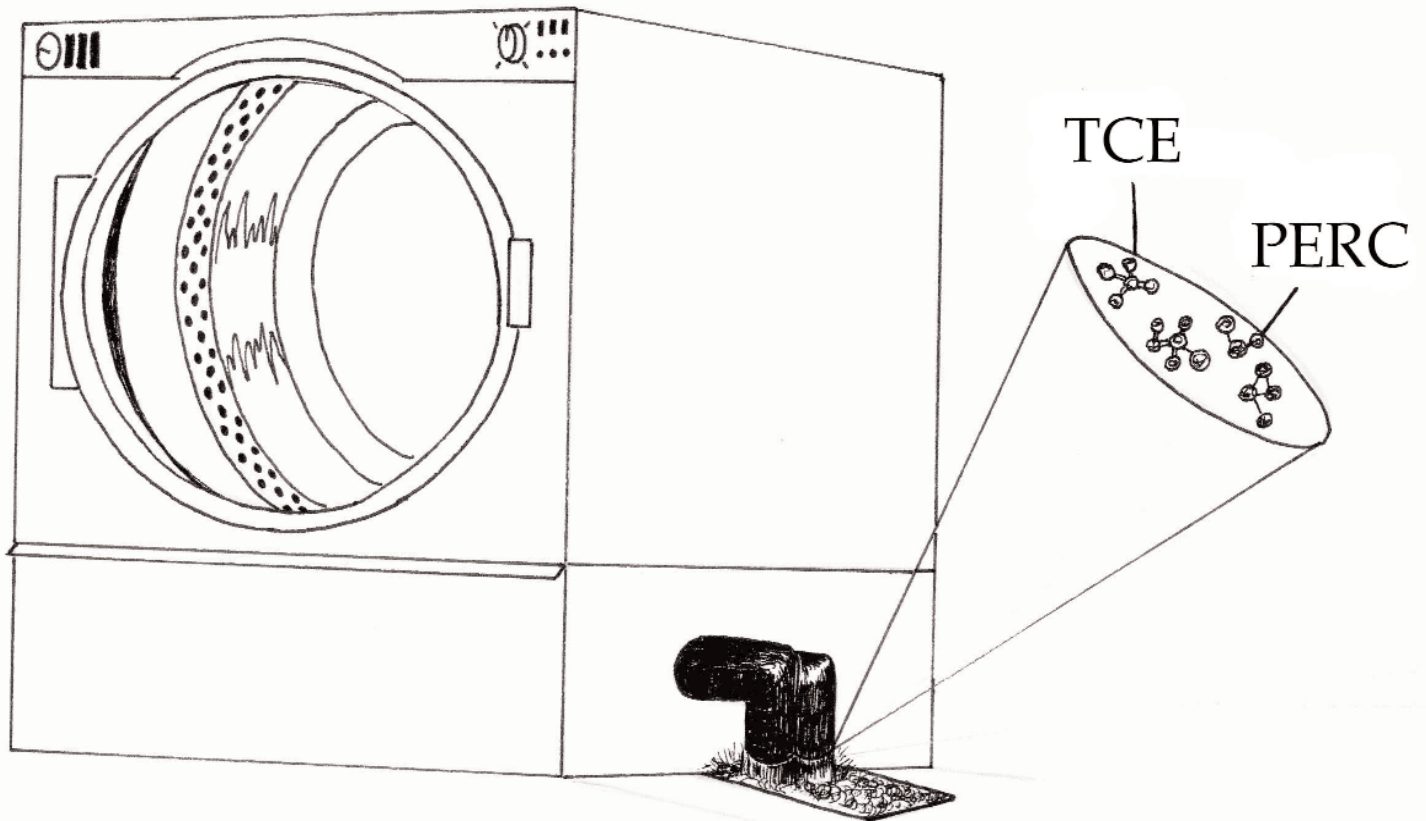
## How do these spotting agents affect non-PERC garment cleaning processes?

Many cleaners have converted away from PERC dry cleaning to safer alternative processes. A number of them, however, continue to use TCE and PERC spotting agents. Use of these spotting agents will make the waste streams generated by the non-PERC garment cleaning processes hazardous.



## Is there a particular problem with these spotting agents for wet cleaning plants?

When cleaners pre-spot garments, the TCE and PERC residues are flushed into the sewer when the water from the cleaning process is discharged. It is illegal for cleaners to discharge hazardous waste to the sewer.



# How do I know if my spotting agent contains TCE or PERC?

Ask your spotting chemical supplier for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the spotting agent. If the spotting agent contains TCE or PERC, it should list the chemical under the second section of the MSDS sometimes labeled "Composition / Information on Ingredients" or "Components." The Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) number should also be listed. This is important because suppliers may call TCE and PERC by different names, but the CAS number stays the same. The CAS number for TCE is 79-01-6 and for PERC 127-18-4. The first page of an MSDS containing TCE is shown below. The "Composition / Information on Ingredients" section is circled in blue.

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Picrin\*

UNITED STATES

## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Date-Issued: 08/04/2000  
MSDS Ref. No: P-3  
Date-Revised: 08/08/2000  
Revision No: New MSDS

Picrin

### 1. PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

**PRODUCT NAME:** Picrin\*  
**GENERAL USE:** For professional drycleaning use only.  
**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:** Stain Removal Agent  
**PRODUCT CODE:** PIC-US

#### MANUFACTURER

R. R. Street & Co. Inc.  
184 Shuman Boulevard  
Naperville, IL 60563  
Product Stewardship: 800-323-7206  
Transportation: 800-424-9399

#### 24 HR. EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency Phone: 800-228-5635

### 2. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

<u>Chemical Name</u>	<u>Wt.%</u>	<u>CAS#</u>	<u>EINECS#</u>
Trichloroethylene	~100	79-01-6	

### 3. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

#### POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

**EYES:** Substance may cause substantial eye irritation and possible damage.  
**SKIN:** May cause skin irritation.  
**SKIN ABSORPTION:** Absorption through skin is possible but not a likely route of significant exposure.  
**INGESTION:** Low to moderate toxicity. May cause vomiting. Can cause adverse health effects as described under INHALATION.  
**INHALATION:** High concentrations can cause central nervous system depression, irregular heartbeat, cardiac arrest, unconsciousness or death.

## Have safer alternative spotting agents been tested?

The Institute for Research and Technical Assistance (IRTA) is a technical nonprofit organization. During a project sponsored by California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and U.S. EPA Region IX, IRTA tested low-VOC safer alternatives with a number of textile cleaning facilities using a range of different textile cleaning processes. IRTA and the test facilities found that the alternative POG spotting agents worked effectively.

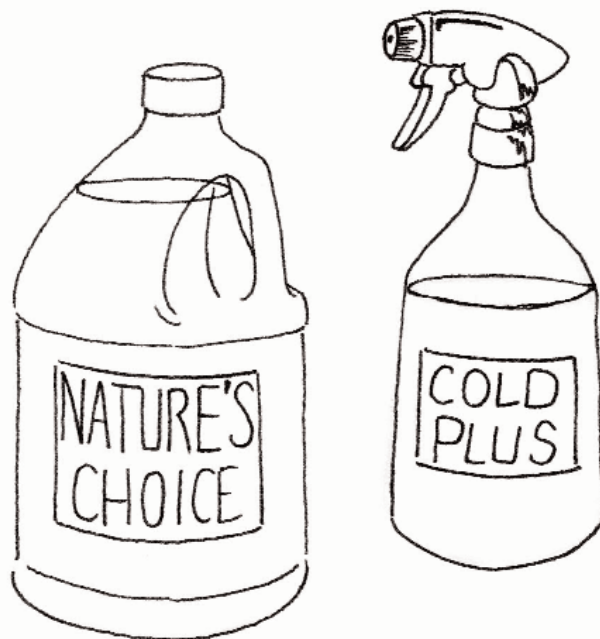
## Are the safer alternative POG spotting agents available?

There are some alternative spotting agents on the market. Many of these contain other ingredients that are toxic or are Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) that contribute to smog. The best alternatives from an overall health and environmental standpoint are water-based and soy based products.

## Where can I get more information?

The IRTA report is on IRTA's website at [www.irta.us](http://www.irta.us), the DTSC's website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov/PublicationsForms](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PublicationsForms) and the Western Regional Pollution Prevention Network website at [www.wrppn.org](http://www.wrppn.org).

**You can contact IRTA at (818) 244-0300 with questions on spotting agent alternatives.**



## Some Products Containing TCE or PERC

Picrin® -- R.R. Street & Co. Inc.

2-1 Formula® -- R.R. Street & Co. Inc.

Volatile Dry Spotter (V.D.S.) -- Laidlaw Corp.

Wetspo -- Laidlaw Corp.

Fast P.R.® -- Caled Chemical

PURO® -- Adco Inc.

P.O.G. -- Pariser Industries Inc.

TarGo® -- A.L. Wilson Chemical Co.



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