

Registration requirements for dry cleaners

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Business information

With the commencement of the new *Environment Protection Act 2017* (the Act) from 1 July 2021, there are some important changes that commercial dry cleaners need to adopt to ensure that their business can continue to legally operate in Victoria.

The Act introduces new environmental protections, including new obligations for the community. The [general environmental duty](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/general-environmental-duty) (GED) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/general-environmental-duty>) is at the centre of the new Act and it applies to all Victorians. The GED requires you to minimise the risk of your activities harming human health and the environment, so far as [reasonably practicable](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws/what-is-reasonably-practicable) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws/what-is-reasonably-practicable>).

See the [Environment Protection Regulations 2021](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws) (Schedule 1) on the EPA website (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws>) for more about prescribed activities.

New registration required for dry cleaners

If you operate a commercial dry-cleaning activity, you must hold a registration from EPA. Commercial dry-cleaning activities include the cleaning of garments using chemical solvent other than water for commercial purposes.

Existing businesses in operation before 1 July 2021 must apply for a registration between 1 July 2021 and 2 January 2022. New businesses that commence operation after 1 July 2021 must apply before they commence operation.

The new registration allows you to legally operate an industrial or waste activity of low to moderate risk. The EPA website has more information about registrations at <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/permissions/registrations>.

You can apply for your new permission, by initially signing up to our new [EPA Portal](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/Portal) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/Portal>).

There are no costs associated with the application for a registration of a commercial dry-cleaning business.

Further information

Contact EPA on 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC)
or [epa.vic.gov.au](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

Read more about the new laws on the [EPA website](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws>).

Read more about permissions on the [EPA website](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/permissions) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/permissions>).

New conditions for dry cleaning operators

Your registration will have [conditions](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/permissions/registrations/types-of-registrations) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/permissions/registrations/types-of-registrations>), which compliment your obligations to comply with the GED and are required to be complied with. Conditions applying to your registration focus on the key risks that dry cleaning poses to human health and the environment.

A list of [conditions for dry-cleaning operations](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/permissions/registrations/types-of-registrations) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/permissions/registrations/types-of-registrations>) is available on the EPA website and includes requirements for operators to:

- keep a copy of their registration at the business activity site.
- provide training to employees on duty requirements of the registration and the Act.
- ensure that all persons engaging in the prescribed activity are properly trained and familiar with how to manage dry-cleaning chemicals and wastes.
- clearly label containers used to store dry-cleaning chemicals and wastes so that the contents can be identified.
- legally store dry-cleaning chemicals and wastes safely (including separator water) in a manner which prevent leaks or spills from escaping into the environment.
- ensure measures are in place to contain and clean-up leaks or spills of dry-cleaning chemicals and wastes.
- legally dispose of hazardous dry-cleaning wastes.
- keep records of outgoing movement of dry-cleaning wastes; the current location of dry-cleaning wastes and the waste type of any dry-cleaning wastes located at your activity site and retain them for five years.
- maintain all plant and equipment and operations in proper working condition
- provide maintenance records of plant equipment, on request.
- notify EPA of any registration changes to your name or address, ensuring they are up to date in the EPA Interaction Portal.
- immediately notify EPA by calling [1300 EPA VIC](tel:1300372842) (1300 372 842) in the event of a spill.

More information

The EPA website has more information on how to understand and minimise risks to the environment from dry cleaning activities, <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-your-industry/retail-and-small-business>.

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EPA acknowledges Aboriginal people as the first peoples and Traditional custodians of the land and water on which we live, work and depend. We pay respect to Aboriginal Elders, past and present and recognise their continuing connection to, and aspirations for Country.



For languages other than English, please call **131 450**.

Visit [epa.vic.gov.au/language-help](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/language-help) for next steps.

If you need assistance because of a hearing or speech impairment, please visit [relay.vic.gov.au](https://www.relay.vic.gov.au)