

FURNITURE STRIPPING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Reducing pollution before it ever gets to the environment is one of the most important ways to protect the environment. Pollution prevention has grown from a good idea many years ago to one of the principal ways our country protects the environment. As a result, our land, air and water are cleaner and safer.

- Train all staff on permit requirements and BMP's

Staff is more willing to support an effort if they understand its basis. They will be more likely to implement BMP's and work to reduce discharges to the sanitary sewer

- Use acetone instead of water whenever possible for cleaning residual methylene chloride from the article being stripped.
- Eliminate the possibility of accidental discharge to sanitary sewer.

This can be done by installing physical barriers such as berms or by plugging floor drains in the areas where furniture stripping chemicals are used and stored.

Keep material containers closed tightly when not in use to reduce evaporation. Make sure these lids are securely in place when materials are returned to storage areas.

- Minimize the release of pollutants generated from the stripping processes.

No discharge of rinsewater to the sanitary sewer is permitted or necessary for methylene chloride based stripping. Instead, filter the residue remaining after stripping, and use a solvent distillation unit to recover solvents for reuse when feasible.

Reuse solvent from previous cleanings for initial cleanings.

Rinsewater generated during caustic-based stripping must be screened to remove paint skins. A screen with openings smaller than 1/16" will collect the majority of paint residue for disposal as solid waste.

No discharge of acetone to the sanitary sewer is permitted.

- Contaminated rags should be evaporated and disposed of either as solid waste or laundered by an industrial laundry.