
FORT CAMPBELL ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK
Guidance and Instruction
DISPOSAL OF USED RAGS & ABSORBENTS

1. Purpose and Scope:

- a. Provide guidance and instruction for the disposal of rags and absorbents that have been soiled with Oil, Used Oil, Fuel, Recyclable Fuel or hazardous material/waste.
- b. This guidance and instruction does not apply to rags and absorbents that have been soiled as a result of containing or recovering from a "spill". Refer to Chapter 17 for spills.
- c. This guidance and instruction does not apply to rags and absorbents that have been soiled with Hazardous Waste. Refer to Chapter 11, Hazardous Wastes/Materials Collection, Guidance and Instruction.

2. References:

Fort Campbell Environmental Handbook, Chapters 11 and 17.

3. Definitions:

- a. Absorbents: Materials that are used to soak up free liquids. Rags are not included in this category.

Note: Dry sweep is neither intended nor recommended for use as an absorbent for Oil/Used Oil, Fuel/Recyclable Fuel or hazardous material/waste. It is intended for general floor cleaning. However, dry sweep may be used as an absorbent.

Note: Dry sweep used for general cleaning of floors may be bagged and placed into the dumpster.

- b. Free liquids: Liquids which readily separate from the solid portion of a waste under ambient temperature and pressure and will pass through a normal paper paint filter/strainer.
- c. Fuel/Recyclable Fuel: Petroleum based products that have a flash point of 100 degrees F or less. MoGas and JP4(four) are included.
- d. Hazardous Waste: Listed by EPA or exhibits characteristics of corrosivity, ignitability, reactivity or toxicity. Refer to Chapter 11.
- e. Oil/Used Oil: Petroleum based products that have a flash point of greater than 100 degrees F. Motor oils, diesel, kerosene, JP8, heating oil, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid, and brake fluids are included.
- f. POL: Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants. Includes Oil/Used Oil and Fuel/Recyclable Fuel as defined above.
- g. Rags: Cloth material used for clean up.

4. General:

Rags and absorbents are frequently used for the cleaning of equipment, tools, small areas of a floor, hands, etc. This results in used, dirty cleaning rags or absorbents that must be disposed of or reclaimed.

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5. Responsibility:

- a. EQOs may request the Environmental Division's support in determining whether used rags & absorbents are hazardous waste.
- b. The generator is responsible for storing, labeling, paperwork and making arrangements for pick up of hazardous waste.

6. Instructions:

- a. POL soiled rags and absorbents:
 - 1) Rags will be laundered; however, remove all Free Liquids.
 - 2) Paper towels may be placed into a dumpster; however, remove all Free Liquids prior to disposal.
 - 3) Absorbents, other than paper towels, will be brought to the Environmental Division Accumulation Point (90 day yard).
 - 4) Use plastic or metal containers, labeled "Used POL Rags" or "Used POL Absorbents", respectively. Also include the name of your organization. A container lid is required, but the lid does not have to be bolted in place, unless shipping.
- b. Laundering of Rags:
 - 1) Deliver USED POL RAGS to post laundry with container lid in place and secured.
 - 2) Post laundry will launder rags, place clean rags into your container and notify you to pick up your Clean Rags.

7. Additional Guidance:

- a. For additional guidance and information, and answers to your questions, contact Hazardous Waste Program Manager, Environmental Division, 798-9786.
- b. For future reference, place this document in Chapter 16 of this Handbook.