



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

W Cleaners
Ponderay, Idaho
2008

Environmental Commitment

W Cleaners in Ponderay, Idaho provides dry cleaning and laundry services and is committed to doing their part for a clean environment by providing their customers state-of-the-art equipment and an advanced cleaning process. On their Website it states, *"Being a responsible citizen is part of our promise of world-class excellence."*

Pollution Prevention Success

Energy and Water Conservation

When W Cleaners started business less than a year ago, the owner chose to purchase efficient, automated dry cleaning equipment with the latest technology and advancements. An example is the use of three-phase industrial energy systems that operate on more than 50% less energy than single phase equipment.

W Cleaners developed a hot water retrieval system by installing a retrieval tank to collect heat from the left-over condensate steam created from the boiler. That heat is redistributed to heat the water for the washing machines. This eliminates the need for a separate typical water heater requiring substantial natural gas energy usage daily.

W Cleaners uses their chiller to create their own supply of cold air to keep the building cool by tying an air handler into the circuit pipes that flow between the water pipes and the chiller and installing a blower. This innovative approach reduces energy consumption significantly and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Air Emission and Hazardous Waste Reduction

W Cleaners currently uses (DF-2000), a hydrocarbon/petroleum-based solvent instead of the standard perchloroethylene (perc), the most common cleaning solvent used in the dry cleaning industry. In recent years, increased awareness of environmental health risks and regulations have resulted in increasing portions of the industry moving away from perc and returning to the use of petroleum solvents, which are less toxic than perc and lighter than water.

W Cleaners also uses a wet cleaning system daily. Wet cleaning processes require a working knowledge of professional cleaning techniques and a high-tech washing machine that use soap and water to clean clothes. Therefore, wet cleaning systems do not generate hazardous waste, air emissions, greenhouse gases, or ozone-depleting substances. Potential human health and safety impacts are also limited by using wet cleaning. Additionally, in general,

For more information

Visit W Cleaner's website at www.wcleaners.com for more information.

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