

DISPOSABLE WIPERS VS. RENTED SHOP TOWELS:

The Facts May Surprise You Take A Closer Look

Although it might appear that reusable, laundered shop towels are environmentally preferable, all is not how it appears. From an environmental standpoint, there are a number of advantages to using disposable wipers - advantages for you and your business, your employees, and for the preservation of the earth's valuable resources.

An independent study of the relative benefits of disposable wipers and rented shop towels conducted by Project Performance Corporation, an environmental consulting firm, shows that for a variety of reasons, disposable wipers are the preferred choice. Utilizing three parameters - energy used, water used, and waste produced - a life cycle analysis was conducted. To be consistent with EPA guidelines, the life cycles of both disposable wipers and laundered shop towels spanned four phases:

Raw Material Acquisition - Manufacturing Industrial Usage - and Post Usage

Here are the facts:

Disposable wipers made from recycled textiles are preferable to laundered shop towels across all three life cycle parameters. All other types of disposable wipers are preferable to laundered shop towels on two of the three parameters analyzed.

All types of disposable wipers use less water and generate less waste than laundered shop towels. And many disposable wipers can be used more than once, thus increasing water conservation and further reducing waste products.

Disposable wipers made from recycled textiles use less energy than laundered shop towels. They also contribute 30 percent less waste to landfills than rented shop towels.

**In a related study,
Lockheed/Martin Environmental Services'
reported to the EPA Office of Solid Waste:**

Disposable wipers made from recycled or waste materials have a lower overall environmental impact when compared to rental wipers, due primarily to the re-use of materials that would normally be discarded.

The amount of landfill space occupied by industrial wipers is so small that solid waste studies cannot identify a percentage number that wipers contribute to the landfill.

The sludge resulting from cleaning rental wipers may actually be more of an environmental threat in the landfill due to the concentrated contaminants and increased potential for leaking into groundwater.

When large numbers of wipers are collected in one area, such as at a laundry prior to washing, the evaporation of volatile solvents found on the wipers can result in unhealthy air conditions.

The increasing trend to send rental wipers to dry cleaning facilities results in air pollution due to the evaporation of the solvent used to clean the rental wipers.

All disposable wipers have **less** negative impact on the environment than laundered shop towels.

Make the SMART Choice...Disposable Wipers

Environmentally Safer
Do Not Create Waste Water Sludge
Manufactured from Recycled Materials
Create Less Landfill Waste
Consume Less Energy
Safer for Employees & Equipment