

Professional Wet Cleaning Is:

An Alternative Solution for
Cleaning Your Clothing

Non-Hazardous

Natures Solvent

Biodegradable

Good for Your Clothes

Good for Your Skin

Good for the Environment

Preferred cleaning method
by the United States

Environmental Protection
Agency, and

Offers Superior Cleaning



Now there is choice in
the selection of
technology used in
cleaning our customers
textile items.

That choice includes
traditional solvent based
methods, ultrasonic
cleaning, steam cleaning,
hand washing, and **wet
cleaning.**

The Facts on Professional Wet Cleaning

Wet Cleaning's Effect on Clothes

Professional Wet Cleaning is an aqueous process for cleaning a full range of garments using state of the art technology, biodegradable detergents and additives, followed by appropriate drying and restorative finishing procedures.

Professional wet cleaning is an important and increasingly popular service offered by Iris City Cleaners for the solvent-free care of garments.

Professional wet cleaning requires specialized equipment, skills and training to safely clean in water, those garments previously cleaned in chemical solvents.

Professional wet cleaning requires a range of techniques and technologies such as computer-controlled washers and dryers, the use of special soaps and conditioners, and knowledge of fabrics and fibers.

The benefits of wet cleaning include: no chemical smell, whiter whites, easier to remove water-based stains and some items come out cleaner.

The concerns about wet cleaning, on the other hand, are that it can shrink some garments, can cause color change and is more difficult to remove grease-based stains.

Environmental Effects of Wet Cleaning

The environmental benefits are considerable. With wet cleaning, there is no hazardous chemical use, no air pollution, and no water or soil contamination. The only environmental concern is an increased use of water.

Cost of Wet Cleaning

With wet cleaning, a larger portion of the cost of clothes cleaning goes to pay employees, **rather than** for producing chemicals and disposing of hazardous waste. Wet cleaners, however, may charge more for some items to cover the increased labor in pressing and finishing.

Types of Clothes to Wet Clean

Appropriate types of clothes to wet clean include cottons, wools, silks, leathers, suedes, wedding gowns, and beaded and sequined garments.

Some acetate linings and highly structured (tailored) garments can be difficult to wet clean.

Antique satins and gabardines should not be wet cleaned.

Finishing Clothing Cleaned by Wet Cleaning Methods

While most textiles can be effectively cleaned by this method, specialized finishing equipment, often known as European Finishing equipment is required to enable some fibers to tension back to a natural state of relaxation with the use of tension and steam.

Although most clothes cleaners have the capacity to wet clean some garments, professional wet cleaning involves special equipment, knowledge and skill.

Wet cleaning today has become broadly accepted in the fabricare industry and increasingly popular with consumers.

Today's choice includes traditional solvent based methods, ultrasonic cleaning, steam cleaning, hand washing, and **wet cleaning.**

Based in part, on studies from the Center for Neighborhood Technology 1995-2010

Additionally Iris City Cleaners and Laundering Company has received the following awards and certification:

*Award of Excellence
for Garment
Cleaning and
Customer Service*



*Certified Professional
Wet Cleaner*

*Certified Professional Environmental Dry
Cleaner*

Certified Professional Dry Cleaner

Certified Garment Care Professional

Certified Green Cleaner - 4 leaf level



Iris City Cleaners and Laundering Company

Our Green Objective

In an ongoing effort to create and sustain our environmentally friendly, dry cleaning and laundry business, we will perform as responsible stewards of our resources and planet, while continuing to work daily to this end in all of our business activity.

We will seek out vendors who supply us with eco friendly equipment, supplies, and chemicals, establish business relations with them, and utilize their products even in the face of them being more expensive. We will actively participate in our community and state in eco friendly activity and vigorously support conservation and recycling.

A partial listing:

Staff

Employees car pool daily to work. Employees have taken training on conservation, lean management, and hold various certifications.

We belong to the Energy Star Alliance.

Plant

Replaced old lighting with energy efficient lighting with electronic ballast and fluorescent bulbs.

Replaced old windows with energy star windows with ultra violet screening.

Utilize an evaporative cooler for pressing floor cooling and air circulation.

Exterior insulation in building wrap with Eifs stucco finish.

Added ceiling insulation to reduce heat loss.

Completed energy audit (2009) to target areas needed for conservation application.

New roof with R 25 exterior insulation for heat retention.

All steam and water piping is insulated.

Maintains a 90% efficient furnace for heat backup in winter.

Equipment

4th generation dry-cleaning equipment well maintained.

Use of European Finishing equipment which:
reduces third piece of equipment to function,
reduces energy consumption, and provides
best possible finishes.

Use European Spotting Table with carbon
absorbers for safe chemical management and
garment spot removal.

Utilize a water chiller which re-circulates
temperature controlled water for dry cleaning
equipment vs using city water and waste
effluent.

Generate 100% of warm/hot water used from
return steam condensate.

Use computer controlled wet cleaning
equipment.

We use Energy Star equipment in our
operation.

Processes

Using the Eco-Care System for over two
decades.

Use biodegradable non toxic boiler compound
and laundry products.

Use Eco friendly bio-degradable poly film for
packaging.

Utilize some paper-less invoicing.

Utilizes email for promotional material and
advertising.

Offer a broad spectrum of EPA-preferred
cleaning processes, including wet-cleaning.

Use the safest, most environmentally
responsible systems to deal with the by-
products of our work.

Utilize soy ink in printing material as needed.

Utilize motion sensors to switch lighting in
remote locations.

Utilize tensioning equipment in finishing
garments.

Re-circulate water in the cooling for dry-
cleaning.

Offer a carbon offset option to our customers.

Carbon offset is built in to **all** of our processing
of wedding gowns.

We offer eco hangers and poly-less take out
orders to conserve resources.

Solvents

Recycle solvent through distillation, filtering,
and carbon with safe and responsible
handling, which is protection for public
health, employee health and the environment.

Product

Use environmentally friendly biodegradable
poly bagging.

Offer reusable garment transport bags.

Offer customer eco hangers of fully
biodegradable cardboard construction.

Offer poly less orders where no poly covering
is used in transporting finished garments.

Recycle metal, plastic, cardboard, hangers, and
paper products.

Purchase products using post consumer
packaging.

Use energy star computer equipment.

Markets a paper product line consists of high
percentage of post consumer product.

Waste Management

Waste generation is processed by a licensed,
bonded, professional waster hauler and
incinerator.

Waste is maintained in air tight containers in a
safe location.

Paper and cardboard are recycled.

Hangers and poly are recycled.

All solvents are recycled.

Specialized Training

“Lean Training” (waste reduction/elimination
and management) for all staff.

Our staff maintains credentials in six areas of
professional certification.

Energy strategy

We continually pursue any and all ways to
conserve resources and energy, shrink our
carbon footprint, while maintaining a
reasonable profit, in the provision of fine
dry-cleaning and custom laundry services.

Future Initiatives

Explore LED lighting in strategic location and
consider replacement of high efficient
florescent fixtures.

Explore alternative fuels for delivery vans, ie.
propane, compressed natural gas vs
petroleum.

Explore networking with other in the industry
who aggressively adopt conservation and
green stewardship.

Reconsider insulation on all heat generating
and heat maintaining supply and equipment.

Solvent based cleaning includes an emersion of textiles in
either organic or inorganic solvent, with special additives,
mechanical action, and multiple baths where soil is loosened,
flushed away. New solvent is added, drained away, and the
textile is dried, then hand/and/or press finished. Solvents
include perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, hydrocarbon,
silicon based solvent, and liquid carbon dioxide.

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a full range of garments using state of the art technology,
biodegradable detergents and additives, followed by
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Ultrasonic cleaning involves the emersion of textile in
specialized open tanks containing water, with additives and
neutral detergents. Electronic energy is converted to
mechanical energy, vibrating loose foreign particles including
dirt and grime away from the textile item. The item is then
rinsed, dried, then finished. This method is generally reserved
for specialized items on a very small scale. It is idea for
cleaning blinds of all types.

Hand/steam cleaning is the method used to steam clean very
hard to clean/and or very delicate items. An item is moistened
or wetted with steam to loosen soiling and then air brushed to
remove contaminants. This is a hand procedure and only single
items are done at one time. Some soil loosening additives may
be needed to enable soil removal. This method is suitable for
hat cleaning.

Hand washing is a sub class of wet cleaning where the actual
sequence of processes are implemented and carried out by
hand or through a process of sequenced special formulas in
computer controlled wet cleaning machinery to provide a very
gently and thorough cleaning process. This is sometimes seen
in garment manufactures care label for very delicate items.

Note: Generally, the best rule is to follow the care instructions
on the manufacturer’s care label. The properties of each fabric
along with an understanding of any embellishments on the
garment will help determine the best care of the fabric or
garment.



Printed on recycled paper.

Iris City Cleaners and Laundering Company
211 West Washington St.
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
www.iriscitycleaners.com

319-385-9707
888-485-9707

delivery@iriscitycleaners.com

Wet Cleaning



Being Green and Environmentally Sustainable

Iris City Cleaners and Laundering Company *Mt. Pleasant, Iowa*

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