

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 affluent.

Installed a 40 lb. hybrid Italian dry cleaning machine.

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.

Purchased a new cloud based computer system to better track and manage production and on time delivery.

Installed an On Demand water heating system which eliminates hot water storage and the energy required to maintain the storage.

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.

With the addition of the italian manufactured 40 lb. Ipura (a synthetic hydrocarbon machine) our solvent milage (how much solvent is used to clean clothes per pound) is between 6000 and 8000 pounds of clothes per gallon of solvent. Traditional solvents normally do not exceed 2000 pounds per gallon of solvent.

### 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 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.

**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.

**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.



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# Wet Cleaning



## Being Green and Environmentally Sustainable



**Iris City Cleaners**  
and **Laundering Company**  
*Fine Dry Cleaning - Custom Laundry*

## Professional Wet Cleaning is an important and increasingly popular service offered by Iris City Cleaners and Laundering Company

## 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 1/2 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 LED energy efficient lighting.

Added 57 solar panels which resulted in a 50% reduction in our energy consumption.

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.