

# Dry Cleaning: Best Management Practices

Enhance Your Bottom Line. Save Time. Create a Competitive Advantage. Protect the Environment.

In addition to mandatory compliance requirements, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources encourages & provides assistance to Dry Cleaning business owners adopting **Best Management Practices (BMP)**, which are a voluntary set of recommendations to help your business save time, money, as well as the environment. The ultimate goal of BMPs are to aid your business' bottom line.

## Energy

### For Starters:

- Receive an Energy audit
- Measure energy for baseline numbers
- Set a goal for energy reduction

“With rising energy prices, utility bills can reach up to **25%** of total operating costs for a dry cleaning facility”  
-Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

### Lighting:

- Retrofit incandescent bulbs with halolgen par lamps or compact fluorescent lamps
- Replace T-12 with T-8 fluorescent electric bulb lamps
- Change 'EXIT' sign from incandescent bulbs to LED
- Clean light bulbs regularly
- Turn off lights

“Dirt can reduce light bulb efficiency by **50%**”  
-Energy Star

### Maintenance:

- Regularly maintain:  
boilers  
steam traps  
chillers  
air compressors
- Turn off appliances, machines, & additional machinery when not in use

“Boilers account for **20-80%** of energy costs”  
-Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

### Upgrades:

- Request 'Energy Star' for new equipment purchases
- Use high-energy thermal windows & insulation
- Upgrade to high efficiency insullation & roofing
- Install:  
programable thermostat  
censors  
timers
- Insulate:  
boilers  
piping  
steam trap  
water heaters  
solvent machinery

“Losses from steam systems account for roughly **35%** of potential energy savings in dry cleaning”  
-Business Energy Advisor



# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

## Garment Bags:

- Utilize & offer reusable garment bags
- Switch to a biodegradable plastic garment bag
- Purchase bags on a large roll rather than boxed
- Use return plastic bags as garbage liners
- Buy bags made from 100% post-consumer waste
- Recycle plastic garment bags-- check with your waste hauler about options

“3.5 billion wire hangers are discarded in the US annually, a steel equivalent of 60,000 cars”  
-Chemical & Engineering News, 2007

## Hangers:

- Reuse hangers
- Implement hanger recycling program
- Invest in & offer customers eco-friendly hangers

## Additionally:

- Donate unclaimed clothes to charity
- Consider using an alternative cleaning process to perc to reduce amount of hazardous waste generated & save money on disposal costs
- Resuse clothing tags

# Water

## For Starters:

- Look to recycle or reuse water whenever possible
- Check for water leaks & insulate hot water lines
- Turn off cooling units in cool weather

“Wastewater recovery is the most promising source of energy conservation”  
-Laundry Today, 2004

## Investments:

- Install low-flow aerators for sink faucets & toilets
- Replace once-through water cooling systems with looped systems & invest in air cooled equipment
- Purchase water-recycling or ozone equipment & tunnel washers when laundry volume is sufficient

# Transportation

## For Starters:

- Keep tires properly inflated & check pressure often
- Encourage carpooling, ride sharing, & provide accessible bike racks for employees
- Plan trips for efficiency

“Fuel economy decreases rapidly above 60mph”  
-U.S. Department of Energy

## Investments:

- Evaluate opportunities to minimize material & product transportation impact
- Buy from local suppliers when possible
- Invest in high mileage & more efficient vehicles



For more information, visit the DNR's industry assistance page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/SmallBusiness/>

Or call the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program hotline at 855.899.3021