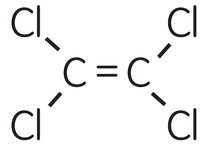
The Dirty Reality of Cleaning Clothes in New York

There are many chemicals used for cleaning clothes.
Some are safe to use, while others are a threat to our health and the environment.
Perchloroethylene or "Perc" is one of these harmful chemicals and although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has deemed it a "likely human carcinogen" roughly 85% of dry cleaners in the U.S. still actively use Perc as their main solvent.



PERC



Perchloroethylene or tetrachloroethylene

is a man-made chemical that was first synthesized in a lab by Michael Faraday in 1821.

It is used in automotive cleaners, paint removal, industrial strength solvents, shoe polish, and dry cleaning.

EXPOSURE

According to the New York State Department of Health:

Recomended Exposure
30 Micrograms/m^3

VS.

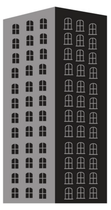
Actual Avg. NY Exposure
106 Micrograms/m^3

PROXIMITY

2.3 Million
New Yorkers



Live within
650 ft



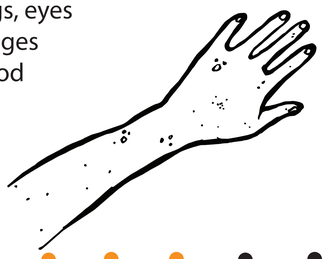
400
Apartment buildings that share premises with dry cleaning operations that use Perc.

This close proximity to Perc has been linked to a **15%** increase in Kidney Cancer

HEALTH EFFECTS

Minimal exposure to PERC causes:

Irritation: skin, lungs, eyes
Behavioral changes
Reversible mood
Headache
Dizziness
Nausea
Sleepiness



Prolonged exposure may cause:

Liver damage
Kidney damage
Neurological damage
Cancer
Bladder cancer
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
Multiple Myeloma



50%



Increase in spontaneous abortions of pregnant women working at dry cleaners that use Perc and are exposed to Perc during or even up to 3 months prior to their pregnancy.

SOLUTION

The Eco Laundry Company™

The Eco Laundry Company, based in New York City, is the first certified B Corporation in the laundry and franchise industries. Stores run on pure wind energy, and washing machines save hundreds of gallons of water. Only biodegradable soaps and detergents are used, making it a completely nontoxic experience for consumers and the environment.

This infographic was created by A.R. Marketing House – armarketinghouse.com
for the Eco Laundry Company – ecolaundrycompany.com
Data Sources:
Environmental Research Journal, 2013
New York State Department of Health
Crain's New York Business: 2016, "The Toxic Chemicals New York's Dry Cleaners Can't Quit"
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency