



# Co-op America Dry Cleaning Alternatives

## Ways to Clean your "Dry Clean Only" Clothes

TYPES OF SERVICES	USE (✓) OR AVOID (⊗)	COMMENTS/SOURCES
<b>Hand Wash</b>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For instructions on safely hand-washing rayon, silk, and wool from green living expert Annie Bond, see: <a href="http://www.care2.com/greenliving/wet-clean-wool-silk-and-rayon.html">www.care2.com/greenliving/wet-clean-wool-silk-and-rayon.html</a>.</li> <li>• For a professional look, take your hand-washed clothes to a dry cleaner for pressing only.</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Wet Cleaning</b>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that pose health, safety, and environmental risks. Main solvent is water.</li> <li>• Works for all fabrics that can be dry cleaned.</li> <li>• Find a wet cleaner at <a href="http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/ppc/cleaner_near_you.htm">http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/ppc/cleaner_near_you.htm</a>.</li> <li>• Some wet cleaners, including Chicago's Greener Cleaner (888/875-8345, <a href="http://www.greenercleaner.net">www.greenercleaner.net</a>), provide mail-in service.</li> </ul>
<b>Liquid Carbon Dioxide Cleaning</b>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main solvent is liquid CO<sub>2</sub>—nontoxic and nonflammable. The CO<sub>2</sub> is "recycled" from other manufacturing processes.</li> <li>• Find a Liquid CO<sub>2</sub> cleaner at: <a href="http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/ppc/cleaner_near_you.htm">http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/ppc/cleaner_near_you.htm</a>. (Excludes companies using the Solvair method (see below).)</li> </ul>
<b>Liquid Carbon Dioxide Cleaning—Solvair Method</b>	⊗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main solvent is glycol ether, a suspected neuro-, respiratory, cardiovascular, and kidney toxin. Uses CO<sub>2</sub> only to finish.</li> <li>• Some Solvair cleaners will advertise simply as liquid CO<sub>2</sub> cleaners, so be sure to ask if the cleaner uses a Solvair machine.</li> </ul>
<b>"GreenEarth" Dry Cleaning</b>	⊗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main solvent is siloxane /D-5, linked to cancer by lab tests. Manufacturing siloxane/D-5 releases dioxin, a known carcinogen.</li> </ul>
<b>Hydrocarbon Dry Cleaning</b>	⊗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main solvent is hydrocarbon, a petroleum-based VOC.</li> </ul>
<b>Conventional Dry Cleaning</b>	⊗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main solvent is perchloroethylene (perc), a toxic VOC linked to liver and kidney damage, and cancer; can also cause dizziness, headaches, nausea, skin, and respiratory problems.</li> </ul>