

Greener Dry Cleaners on Long Island

If you're like most people, when you see a sign in your dry cleaner's window that says: "**green**," "**eco-friendly**," "**organic**" you probably assume those words mean something positive. But do you know what it *really* means? [Green Inside and Out](#) and [Prevention is the Cure](#) issued a [green paper](#) and [video](#) to explain the options and empower consumers to make good choices. See both at GreenInsideandOut.org.

Perchloroethylene, or **Perc**, is a petrochemical solvent that is the most common used by dry cleaners, but several federal agencies have categorized Perc as a likely human carcinogen. The EPA requires that by the year 2020, all perc machines operating within residential buildings must be removed.

Fortunately, there are several alternatives to Perc available today:

- **Wet cleaning:** they wet your clothes and wash them with a commercial grade detergent in a specialized machine. This method is generally considered the greenest of all the options.
- **Liquid CO₂:** Pressurized CO₂ in a specialized machine; sometimes may also use some detergent.
- **Greenearth, or liquid siloxane:** Degrades into silica and has no human health effects associated with it though studies found lab animals developed tumors if exposed to very high concentrations.
- **Rynex:** Propylene glycol ether or type of cleaner that is also used in some body products. It can be an eye and skin irritant and is considered a VOC (volatile organic compound) but has not been shown to cause cancer.
- **Hydrocarbon:** Less toxic than Perc. However, contains set of petrochemical based solvents. Studies have found them to be eye and skin irritants and to cause headaches and dizziness at high doses. It is not yet determined whether or not hydrocarbons can cause cancer.
*If a dry cleaner is using hydrocarbon they may advertise as "organic." Be aware that the word organic in this context is referring to the chemistry of the substance being carbon based, not that the cleaner is chemical-free.

What consumers can do:

- Seek out a dry cleaner using the safest available alternative to Perc.
- If you use a dry cleaner that uses Perc, before you bring the bag of clothes inside your home, take the bag off and let them **off-gas into the outside** air.
- **Recycle** those plastic bags that come with your clothes. They are made of plastic #4, which can be recycled with your grocery bags at your local grocery store.
- Better yet, **avoid the use of those plastic bags** altogether by using reusable dry cleaning garment bags such as those made by **Green Garmento**.



Together as informed consumers, we can move the marketplace to offer us a greater number of healthier choices.
Learn more on dry cleaning chemicals, and how to protect your health & the environment, at

GreenInsideandOut.org

Long Island Green Dry Cleaner List

An unpublished 2011 written survey of over 800 LI dry cleaners conducted by Sustainability Institute at Molloy College in Farmingdale, NY yielded 14 replies by mail from companies identifying themselves as green/eco-friendly. In addition to those survey results, dry cleaners were called directly by phone based on advertisements in local directory listings. A search of companies on www.nodryclean.com was also conducted. From all of this, the following list of Long Island dry cleaners was compiled that identify themselves as “green,” “non-toxic,” “organic,” or other similar wording.

Dry Cleaners on Long Island Using Alternative Methods**Nassau**

1. Adelphi Dry Cleaners, Garden City So., 516 486-2442— hydrocarbon, no wet-cleaning
2. American Cleaners, Hicksville, 516-931-9396 — Hydrocarbon
3. Andrew Howard Cleaners , Syosset, 516-496-7962—hydrocarbon (spray method, uses less solvent), wet-cleaning
4. Arthur Copeland Cleaners, Cedarhurst, 516-295-2198 — CO₂, wet-cleaning
5. Blue Ribbon Cleaners, East Norwich 516-922-5050—Hydrocarbon
6. Connie French Cleaners & Tailors, Great Neck, 516-487-1599—hydrocarbon
7. Corniche Cleaners, Oyster Bay, 516-624-3804— wet-cleaning only
8. Country Cleaners, Port Washington, 516-883-9571 — Hydrocarbon
9. Deb’s Cleaners, Jericho, 516-681-2878—Greenearth
10. Fiesta Cleaners, Massapequa Park, 516-541-2140— hydrocarbon
11. Go Green Environmental Dry Cleaning, Long Beach, & Rockville Centre, 516-431-6461 —Greenearth
12. Greensleeves Garment Care, Oyster Bay, 516-624-2020 —Greenearth; wet-cleaning
13. Holiday Park Cleaners, Farmingdale, 631-694-6954 —hydrocarbon
14. Lockers4Laundry, Massapequa, 516-798-9878 —hydrocarbon
15. Meurice Garment Care, Manhasset, 516-627-6060 —“Eco Care” hydrocarbon, wet-cleaning
16. Middle Neck Organic, Great Neck, 516-482-1454 —hydrocarbon
17. Pamper Cleaners, Hicksville, Plainview & Syosset, 516-681-5040 —hydrocarbon; wet-cleaning
18. Sterling French Dry Cleaner, Port Washington, 516-767-0003 —hydrocarbon; wet-cleaning
19. Woodhill Cleaners Inc, Woodmere, 516-374-1103 —hydrocarbon; no wet-cleaning

Suffolk

20. All Fabric Cleaners, Farmingville, 631-736-1781 —Wet-cleaning, *Participated in NYS21 wet-cleaning demonstration in 2012*
21. Deb’s At Huntington Cleaners, Huntington Station, 631-424-5583 —Greenearth
22. Evergreen Cleaners, Huntington, 631-923-0034, hydrocarbon, wet-cleaning
23. Fort Hill Cleaners, Huntington, 631-351-2966 — Hydrocarbon; wet-cleaning
24. Gentle Care Cleaners, Bayport, 631-363-2008—hydrocarbon; wet-cleaning
25. Good Ground Dry Cleaners, Hampton Bays, 631-728-2288 — Hydrocarbon; wet-cleaning;
26. Greenlawn Eco Cleaners, Greenlawn, 631-754-2766 — Hydrocarbon
27. New Best Cleaners, Nesconset, 631-382-9494 — Hydrocarbon
28. Northport Cleaners, Northport, 631-261-6777—hydrocarbon; no wet-cleaning
29. Rainbow Cleaners, Huntington Village, 631-351-5820 —hydrocarbon; wet-cleaning
30. Sunny Hi-Tech Cleaners, Shirley, 631-281-1666—wet-cleaning
31. Swan Cleaners, Amityville, 631-691-1820—hydrocarbon; wet-cleaning
32. Sweetwaters Dry Cleaners, Wainscott, 631-537-5120-- hydrocarbon; wet-cleaning
33. The Cleanery, East Farmingdale, 631-847-3930—Greenearth; wet-cleaning (*Specializes in wedding gowns/leather*)

¹ Note: Difficulties with surveying dry cleaners is that English may not be the primary language for some dry cleaning business owners.

