Non-chlorinated Aerosol and Liquid Products

These alternative solvent-based products are non-chlorinated which means they do not contain Perc, MeCl, or TCE. However, they are often packaged in similar aerosol cans and liquid bottles as the chlorinated products.

What can you do to keep from using chlorinated products accidentally?

✓ **Check the label or MSDS!**

It is important to read the product's label or Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

- Alternative products are sometimes advertised as being non-chlorinated. Check to make sure!
- Some products containing the chlorinated solvents Perc, MeCl, or TCE may be labeled or advertised as non-flammable.

✓ **Check the ingredient list!**

- Perc is sometimes called tetrachloroethylene and MeCl is sometimes called dichloromethane.

✓ **Check the warning/danger/ precautions area!**

- Check for warnings regarding health effects such as cancer, birth defects, irregular heartbeat or other reproductive harm.

Water-based Brake and Parts Cleaners Units

The most common units are called sink-on-a-drum or birdbath units. The cleaning solution cycles through the unit, traveling up from the reservoir through a faucet and flexible brush to the work surface. It then drips off of the work surface, collecting in the sink and passing through the drain, back to the reservoir to be filtered. Some units heat the cleaning solution, and almost all units are portable.

Hexane Advisory

Some alternative aerosol and liquid products contain hexane. The State has released an advisory detailing health concerns associated with the use of these products. For more information, visit the following web site at: http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/HESIS/nhexane.pdf

Based on MSDSs, there are hexane-free formulations available. We recommend that facilities use hexane-free aerosol or liquid products or water-based brake and parts cleaning units.

Need More Information?

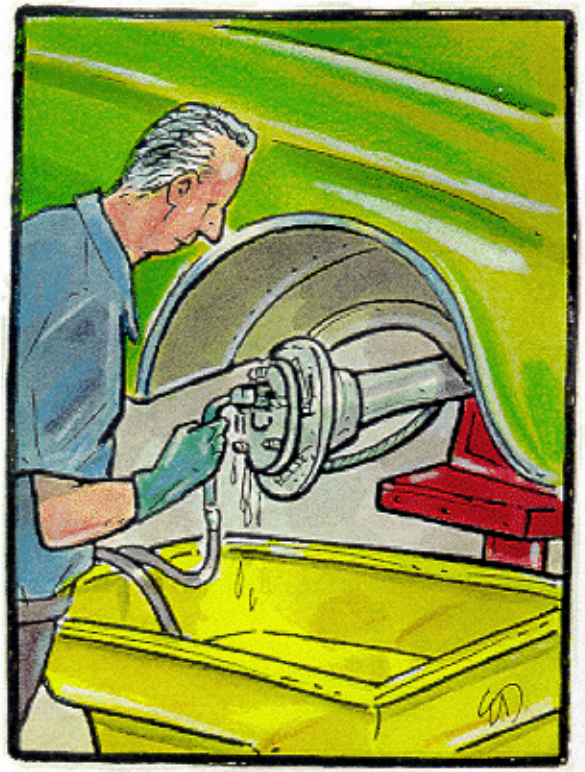
Contact Mr. Tony Andreoni, Manager, Process Evaluation Section, at (916) 324-6021, or the ARB's Public Information Office at (916) 322-2990.

Also, visit our web site at: http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/amr/amr.htm

CLEANERS *and* DEGREASERS

used in

AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE *and* REPAIR

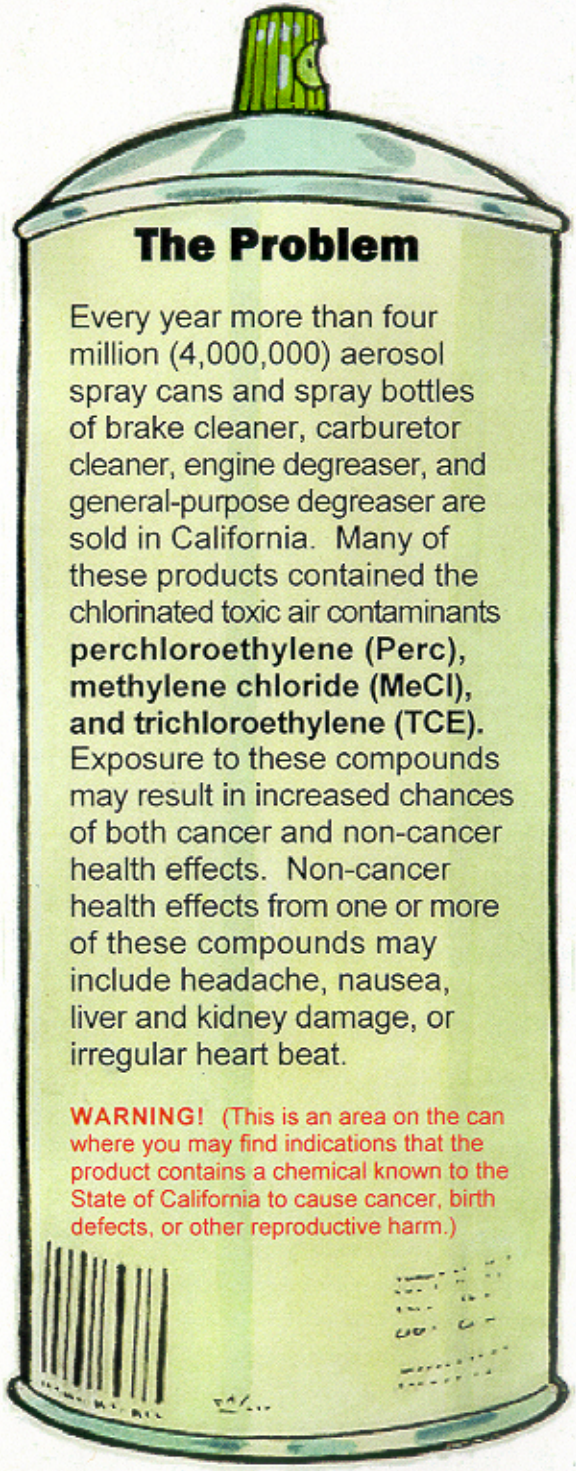


Know the law
Avoid penalties
Improve working conditions

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

California Environmental Protection Agency

AIR RESOURCES BOARD



The Problem

Every year more than four million (4,000,000) aerosol spray cans and spray bottles of brake cleaner, carburetor cleaner, engine degreaser, and general-purpose degreaser are sold in California. Many of these products contained the chlorinated toxic air contaminants **perchloroethylene (Perc), methylene chloride (MeCl), and trichloroethylene (TCE).** Exposure to these compounds may result in increased chances of both cancer and non-cancer health effects. Non-cancer health effects from one or more of these compounds may include headache, nausea, liver and kidney damage, or irregular heart beat.

WARNING! (This is an area on the can where you may find indications that the product contains a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm.)

The Solution

To minimize such emissions, the Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted a new regulation in April 2000. The regulation:

- prohibits the manufacture, sale, or use of automotive cleaning and degreasing products containing Perc, MeCl, and TCE.
- reduces total emissions of Perc, MeCl, and TCE by over 5 tons per day.
- reduces the amount of Perc, MeCl, and TCE in wastewater treatment plants and hazardous waste disposal sites.

What manufacturers must do?

- **As of June 30, 2001**, Perc, MeCl, and TCE shall not be used in the manufacturing of:
  - brake cleaners,
  - carburetor cleaners,
  - engine degreasers, and
  - general purpose degreasers.

What facility operators must do?

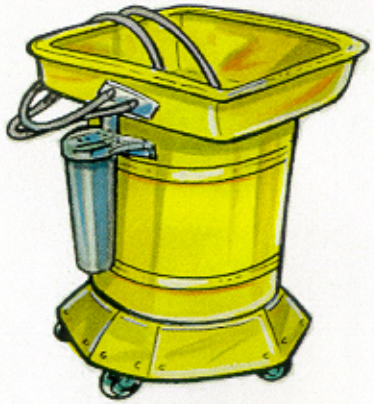
- **After December 31, 2002**, service stations, fleet operators, general automotive repair shops, and car dealerships shall no longer use automotive cleaning and degreasing products containing Perc, MeCl, and TCE to service or repair motor vehicles.

Use___

Alternative Products

- **readily available and comparable in price;**
- **suitable and effective for cleaning and degreasing activities;**
- **reduce work place and public exposure to air toxics;**
- **reduce soil and groundwater contamination; and**
- **reduce hazardous waste.**

Non-chlorinated Aerosol and Liquid Products



Water-based Brake and Parts Cleaner Units