



## New England Wet Cleaning Equipment Manufacturers Information

The Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at UMass Lowell is currently working with garment cleaners across the state to promote the use of professional wet cleaning. Educational and outreach efforts are underway to inform the cleaners about the harmful effects of perchloroethylene and the benefits of converting to wet cleaning. Demonstration events and sites have been conducted and established in addition to educational mailings and videos made available. Grant money may be available if you are interested in converting to a dedicated professional wet cleaning facility.

**Check out more at: [www.turi.org/community/wet\\_cleaning](http://www.turi.org/community/wet_cleaning)**

### **Professional Wet Cleaning Definition**

*Professional wet cleaning is a process that uses computer-controlled washers and dryers, specifically formulated detergents, and specialized finishing equipment to create a cost-effective alternative to dry cleaning.*

Professional wet clean washers use a computer to control the rotation of the cleaning drum in order to minimize agitation while providing sufficient movement for effective garment cleaning. Wet clean washers are also equipped with a computer programmed detergent injection system, which allow the cleaner to specify the amount and type of wet clean detergent used for each load.

Biodegradable wet clean detergents have been formulated by detergent manufacturers to maximize cleaning power while minimizing color change and shrinkage.

Wet clean dryers include computer control to assure that garments retain a proper amount of moisture after the dry cycle is complete.

Specialized tensioning pressing machines are used to enhance the restoration of constructed garments, such as suit jackets, suit pants, and other tailored items.

Currently, there are a number of companies who manufacture professional wet cleaning washer and dryer systems, tensioning equipment presses, and professional wet cleaning detergents and additives. This report provides an overview of the technologies involved and manufacturers and distributors in the New England area for you to contact for more information about their equipment and materials.

## Wet Cleaning Washers and Dryers

While there are a number of manufacturers of professional wet cleaning washer and dryer systems, these machines share many common features. Computer control, programmability and other similar features are the essential components of these machines. In addition, in each of these systems, washing and drying are done in separate machines, allowing for greater throughput than advanced dry clean machines, which require washing and drying to occur in the same machine.



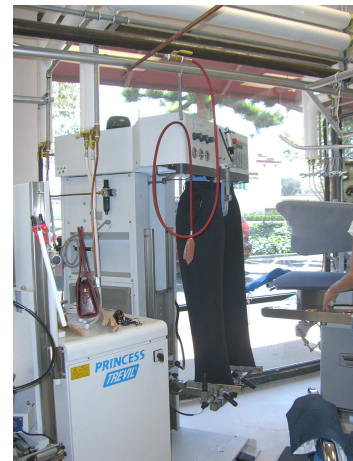
Professional wet clean equipment manufacturers have adopted different sales strategies for their equipment. Some offer a full package system of washer and dryer (and also offer the chemicals and finishing equipment) while others sell components and allow the professional cleaner to put together a system tailored to their own needs. Some manufacturers include extensive technical training as part of the purchase price, while others only instruct the cleaner in the basic operating features. Some manufacturers include a detergent injection system as part of their package, while others expect the detergent companies to provide this equipment. The machines span a wide range of sizes, design features, and prices. In general, hard mount washers are less expensive than soft mount machines, but require a custom concrete foundation and are not suitable for upper-floor or above-basement installation.

Company	Overview	Phone	Web
Wascomat	Headquartered in Inwood ,NY  Distributed through various New England distributors	800-645-2205	<a href="http://www.wascomat.com">www.wascomat.com</a>  <a href="http://www.wascomatdistributors.com">www.wascomatdistributors.com</a>

Company	Overview	Phone	Web
Miele	Distributed from Princeton, NJ. Partner with Veit finishing equipment and Kreussler detergents for full package.	800-843-7231  Wet cleaning: 800-991-9380 x2435	<a href="http://www.wetcleaning.com">www.wetcleaning.com</a>
American Dryer	Dryers manufactured in Fall River, MA  Check for technical support prior to purchase	508-678-9000	<a href="http://www.amdry.com">www.amdry.com</a>
Maytag	Contact local distributor to determine availability	800-662-3587	<a href="http://www.maytagcommerciallaundry.com">www.maytagcommerciallaundry.com</a>
Ipsos	Distributed in West Newton and Worcester by Aldrich Clean Tech.	920-748-3121  508-792-1007	<a href="http://www.ipsosusa.com">www.ipsosusa.com</a>  <a href="http://www.aldrichcleantech.com">www.aldrichcleantech.com</a>
Imesa	Washers and Dryers manufactured in Italy. US headquarters in Livingston, NJ – Deal through Trevil America	<a href="mailto:info@imesa.it">info@imesa.it</a>  NJ: <a href="mailto:ImesaUSA@aol.com">ImesaUSA@aol.com</a> 954-861-4572	<a href="http://www.imesa.it">www.imesa.it</a>

## Tensioning Equipment

Wet cleaned garments can be finished using either conventional pressing equipment or specialized tensioning finishing equipment. Tensioning presses are designed to reverse or prevent shrinkage and/or steam crumpling and creasing of garments by applying widthwise and lengthwise tension on garments during the pressing process. Tensioning finishing equipment is increasingly recognized as an essential component of professional wet cleaning. Performance tests have shown that professional wet cleaning is effective in the actual cleaning of clothes, but that dimensional change (shrinking and stretching) can sometimes be a problem if the cleaner does not use tensioning equipment. In addition, tensioning finishing equipment has been shown to reduce the pressing labor time at professional wet cleaning facilities.

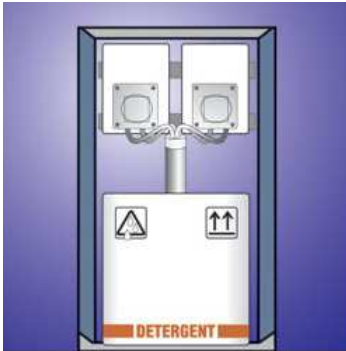


There are two main types of tensioning equipment, form finishers and pants toppers. Both pieces of equipment function by using steam to relax fibers, moving parts to stretch and shape clothes and hot air to dry.

Company	Overview	Phone	Web
Hi-Steam	Manufactured by European Finishing Equipment Corp. in Carlstadt, NJ	888-460-9292	<a href="http://www.histeam.com">www.histeam.com</a>
Veit	Made in Germany, Partners with Miele in Princeton, NJ  Local distributor: John Rigas Co., Canton, MA	<a href="mailto:info@veit.de">info@veit.de</a>  Office: 781-575-1220 Cell: 617-719-5921	<a href="http://www.veit.de/en">www.veit.de/en</a>
Trevil	Made in Italy, US base in Mamaroneck, NY	973-535-8305	<a href="http://www.trevil.com">www.trevil.com</a>
Unipress	Headquartered in Tampa, FL. Distributed in MA by Aldrich Clean Tech.	813-623-3731  508-792-1007	<a href="http://www.unipresscorp.com">www.unipresscorp.com</a>  <a href="http://www.aldrichcleantech.com">www.aldrichcleantech.com</a>

## Detergent Dispensing System

The detergent Dispensing system comes with a computer program that injects the detergent into the washer, allowing the operator to specify the amount and type of wet clean detergent to be used for each load. This is an essential part of the wet cleaning system, as it maximizes the effectiveness and performance of wet cleaning detergents.



Once you decide on a professional wet cleaning system you will work closely with a detergent company or washer/dryer company who can assist you with determining the dispensing system that will be right for your set up.

Company	Overview	Phone	Web
Beta Technology	Headquartered in Santa Cruz, CA.  Technical Support Manager is located in Hurlock, MD	800-858-2382  (Mike Racine: <a href="mailto:mike.racine@beta-technology.com">mike.racine@beta-technology.com</a> )	<a href="http://www.beta-technology.com">www.beta-technology.com</a>
Knight	Headquartered in Lake Forest, CA  Mid-Atlantic Regional Sales Manager	800-854-3764  201-819-7125 (Mark Griffing: <a href="mailto:mgriffing@idexcorp.com">mgriffing@idexcorp.com</a> )	<a href="http://www.knightequip.com">www.knightequip.com</a>

## Cleaning Agents

A wide range of specifically designed detergents, conditioners, and sizing agents have been developed for professional wet cleaning. The computer controls on wet cleaning washers are designed to maximize the effectiveness of these cleaning agents.

**Detergents:** Specialized wet cleaning detergents are formulated with additives to minimize shrinkage and color loss.

**Conditioners:** Wet cleaning conditioners smooth and soften garments, and coating fibers to minimize shrinkage.

**Sizing Agents:** Wet cleaning sizing agents add body to garments and improve creases which helps with finishing.

**Combinations:** Some chemical manufacturers offer a conditioner and sizing agent in one or a detergent, conditioner, and sizing agent in one. The combination products, however, may not allow as much flexibility in cleaning programs as individual products.

**Spotting Agents:** In addition to cleaning chemicals, specially formulated biodegradable pre-spotting agents for professional wet cleaning have been developed, since waste water from wet cleaning machines are generally disposed through municipal sewer drains.



The detergent distributor that you chose will most likely help you set up your professional wet cleaning programs on your washer and provide training as you learn your new system.

Company	Overview	Phone	Web
Adco	Sales Reps are in each Northeast State except Maine.	800-821-7556	<a href="http://www.adco-inc.com">www.adco-inc.com</a>  Find a sales rep at: <a href="http://www.adco-inc.com/index.cfm?section=locator">http://www.adco-inc.com/index.cfm?section=locator</a>

<b>Company</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Web</b>
Gurtler	Distribute through Aristo-Craft in Oxford, MA	800-875-0479 (Aristo-Craft)	<a href="http://www.gurtler.com">www.gurtler.com</a>
Keerwite	Located in VA. Distributor listing coming to web site: <a href="http://www.dry-clean.com/distributors.htm">http://www.dry-clean.com/distributors.htm</a>	703-625-9879 or 877-553-3794	<a href="http://www.dry-clean.com">www.dry-clean.com</a>  (see wet cleaning products at bottom of web page: <a href="http://www.dry-clean.com/allproducts.htm">http://www.dry-clean.com/allproducts.htm</a> )
Kreussler	Northeast regional distributor: Rich Fitzpatrick. Works with Miele and Veit.	<a href="mailto:Richard.fitzpatric@kreussler.com">Richard.fitzpatric@kreussler.com</a>	<a href="http://www.Kreussler-chemie.com">www.Kreussler-chemie.com</a>
Laidlaw	For Northeast distributors, see: <a href="http://www.laidlawcompany.com/industrial/industrial_ne.html">http://www.laidlawcompany.com/industrial/industrial_ne.html</a>	508-699-5521 or 508-878-8739	<a href="http://www.laidlawcorp.com">www.laidlawcorp.com</a>
MEGS Enviro Tech	Located in CA and do not appear to have Northeast distributors at this time. However, very popular product with CA wet cleaners.	714-689-0068	<a href="http://www.megswetcleaning.com">www.megswetcleaning.com</a>
Pariser	Located in Paterson, New Jersey	973-569-9090	<a href="http://www.pariserchem.com">www.pariserchem.com</a>
RR Street	Distributors in MA, CT, NJ, NY. See listing at: <a href="http://www.4streets.com/pages.asp?id=66786&amp;thisNav=3">http://www.4streets.com/pages.asp?id=66786&amp;thisNav=3</a>	630-416-4244	<a href="http://www.4streets.com">www.4streets.com</a>
Sanitone	Most likely based in KY	800-543-0406	<a href="http://www.sanitone.com">www.sanitone.com</a>
Seitz	Manufactured in Germany, distributed through Aristo-Craft in Oxford, MA	800-875-0479 (Aristo-Craft)	<a href="http://www.seitz24.com">www.seitz24.com</a>
Stamford	Distributed by Package Supply in Avon, MA	800-336-8066 (Package Supply)	<a href="http://www.fabritec.com/stamford/index.html">www.fabritec.com/stamford/index.html</a>
	And Aristo-Craft in Oxford, MA	800-875-0479 (Aristo-Craft)	

Source: Information in this New England Equipment Report was adapted from "Equipment Report: Professional Wet Cleaning Technologies," compiled by the Pollution Prevention Center at the UEPI, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA.