

## Dry Cleaners Switch from Perchloroethylene to Professional Wet Cleaning

### Save Money, Improve Health, Please Customers

Leading dry cleaners in Massachusetts have taken a big step toward becoming environmentally friendly businesses by eliminating the use of perchloroethylene (perc), a probable human carcinogen. Shops are switching to the safer and more cost-effective alternative – professional wet cleaning.

The benefits of professional wet cleaning – saving money, improving health and safety, averting regulatory oversight and risk of contamination, and pleasing customers – have been proven by dry cleaners across Massachusetts.

TURI has worked with over a dozen cleaners in Massachusetts. Data collected from five cleaners show an **average payback time of 2.5 years and an ROI of 5.7%** for switching from perchloroethylene to professional wet cleaning.



### KMK Cleaners in Walpole Creates Healthier Workplace

- 40% reduction in electricity costs
- Greater than 50% drop in water use
- Approximately \$1,500 per month savings in operating costs

*"As a family run business, we've been interested in getting away from perc for quite a while, and professional wet cleaning was the right answer. It makes the shop a healthier place for my Dad and me, our employees, and for future generations."*

– Kristy Mead, Manager KMK Cleaners



### Silver Hanger Cleaners in Bellingham Realized Savings

- 20% reduction electricity use
- 14% reduction in natural gas use in the first year of professional wet cleaning, savings of more than \$2,700

*"I was anxious to get rid of the perc machine because of the health and waste issues, but I wanted to replace it with something that I wouldn't find out later caused other problems. Professional wet cleaning was the logical solution for me and I couldn't be happier with the results. It works much better than I imagined, my workers are grateful, and my customers are happy."*

– Mark Isabelle, Owner Silver Hanger Cleaners



## Ace Cleaners in North Andover Saves Money, Improves Air Quality

- Over \$1,800 in overall savings after switching to professional wet cleaning
- Electricity use reduced by 15%

*"Before this change, when I would open the door to work there was a strong smell, and because I have asthma, I would cough and choke. Now when I get to work, everything smells clean and fresh. Not only does the technology do a great job of cleaning the clothes, it is better for the health of my customers and workers."*

– Yong Kim, Owner Ace Cleaners

## AB Cleaners in Westwood Creates Safer Work Environment with Improved Quality

Joon Han, owner of AB Cleaners in Westwood, knew for a long time that using perc to clean clothes was not healthy but was unsure of his options. The impetus for change came when his wife, who works daily in the shop, became pregnant.



*"We knew that perc was not good for us. I was concerned for the health of my pregnant wife and baby and also for my employees. With wet cleaning, there has been a huge improvement in the way the air smells and the clothes come out cleaner without any shrinkage or the smell of chemicals."*

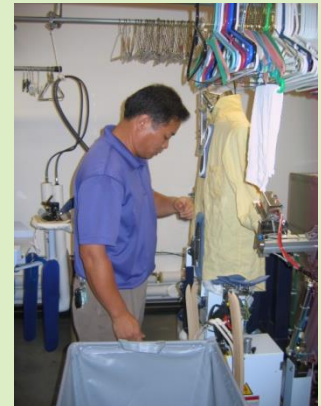
– Joon Han, Owner AB Cleaners

## Art's Cleaners in Westborough Meets Customer Demand for Safer Cleaning Methods

Art's Cleaners opened its shop in a brand new shopping plaza and decided to dedicate operations from the start to professional wet cleaning only.

*"About 50 percent of our customers ask us what chemicals we are using to clean our clothes. Now we are protecting the health of our customers and the environment. We are also now more financially successful because we are able to clean all clothes in house."*

– Sue Koo, Spokeswoman Art's Cleaners



The Toxics Use Reduction Institute manages an incentive grant program to assist with the purchase and installation of professional wet cleaning equipment that allows for "dry clean only" garments to be washed with water and special detergents. The result is cleaner indoor air and reduced worker exposure to perc, a probable human carcinogen. See [www.turi.org/drycleaning](http://www.turi.org/drycleaning) for more information and detailed case studies.



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