

Warning: The US EPA has Banned the use of Methylene Chloride

Regulatory Update

The EPA determined that methylene chloride, also known as dichloromethane (DCM) presents an “unreasonable risk of injury to health,” including increased risk of cancers of the liver, lung, breast, brain, blood, and central nervous system. Due to these risks, **the EPA has banned methylene chloride for all facilities maintenance and operations applications.**

What is Methylene Chloride?

A colorless liquid solvent with a mild, sweet odor used for a variety of applications such as adhesives, paint and coating products, metal cleaning, chemical processing, and aerosols. Methylene Chloride is also known as Dichloromethane (DCM).

Health Effects:

Exposure to DCM can occur through inhalation or absorption through the skin and Laboratory studies indicate chronic exposure can lead to cancer. Additional adverse health effects include

- Headaches
- Decreased attention span
- Disorientation and loss of consciousness
- Eye and Skin irritation
- Increases the risk of heart attack

What Products Contain Methylene Chloride?

Products which may contain methylene chloride include, paints, adhesive, caulks, degreasers, pesticides, herbicides, and solvents.

Brand-Name Products Which may Contain DCM:

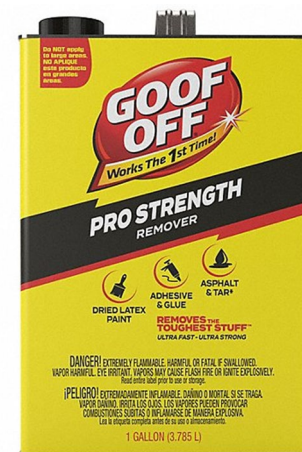
- Goof Off
- Strypeeze
- Klean Strip
- Jasco Paint and Epoxy Remover
- Champion Sprayon Paint Off
- Crown Handi-Strip All Purpose Liquid Cleaner

Regulatory Compliance

Use of products which contain Methylene Chloride for Operations Staff is prohibited. Operations groups on campus must identify all products containing DCM and dispose of as Hazardous Waste Through [Environmental Health and Safety](#).

Disposal

If you find products which contain DCM/methylene chloride, submit for a hazardous waste pickup through EH&S.



Visit the link below to view the EPA Website with information regarding the DCM ban:

