



Technical tips – Filters

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The basic principle of dry cleaning is the transferring of soil from the garment to the solvent, and then safely removing the soil from the solvent. Since soil-free solvent is essential to cleaning clothes, the second part of the process is very important. Filtration is used to help remove some soil from the solvent, making it safer to re-use the solvent load after load. During the cleaning cycle, solvent passes through the filters, where insoluble soil (such as lint) is removed by filter paper and soluble soil (such as dye) is removed by carbon. Some filters contain clay, which can absorb some NVR (non-volatile residue), such as grease. Cartridge filters come in different sizes and can be used in different combinations, but **MUST** be managed correctly in order to control soil. Let's look at what happens when cartridge filters are not managed properly.

- Filters clogged with insoluble soil can cause poor solvent flow which leads to:
 - Poor cleaning
 - Excessive lint and static
 - Graying of garments
 - Streaks and swales
- Used-up carbon/clay can lead to excessive dye/NVR in solvent which can cause:
 - Re-deposition
 - Graying of garments
 - Streaks and swales
 - Odors

Cartridge filter mismanagement can keep solvent from properly removing soil, which will cause garments to remain dull and unclean. It can also cause soil to redeposit onto garments, which can cause permanent damage. Bottom line, not changing cartridges will drive up the number of garments that have to be re-cleaned or drive off customers, which means **DOLLARS LOST**. How long filters will last depends on the amount and type of garments being cleaned, as well as the type and brand of filters used. To assure proper performance, filter pressure and solvent color must be monitored on a regular basis.

