



Technical tips – Solvent Levels

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One of the biggest issues in the Dry Cleaning industry today is low solvent levels. Be it Perc, High Flash Hydrocarbon or petroleum solvent the working tanks of a growing number of dry cleaning machines are only half full, or worse. So what are some of the problems caused by low solvent levels and how do they affect operations?

- Excessive mechanical action during the wash cycle.
 - Can cause increased lint.
 - Potential for damage to sensitive/delicate fabrics.
- Poor solvent flow through the machine.
 - Can cause greying and redeposition.
 - Poor insoluble and water soluble soil removal.
 - Increased expenses for spot removal and re-cleans.
- The pump can cavitate and make high pitched sounds during the wash cycle.
 - Pump seal and impeller can wear, leak and stop working.
 - Pump replacement can cost over \$1000.
 - Loss of production costs.
- Solvent can overheat to over 90° F.
 - Can cause increased wrinkling.
 - Will cause increased dye bleeds.

Low solvent levels can cause damage to machines and garments. While trying to save a few pennies per garment dollars are slipping out the door. Also buy brand name solvent (in drums or pails) from a reputable supplier. Working tanks should be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full and distilled/clean solvent tanks should be $\frac{1}{2}$ full.

