

MAKING CENTS OF THE DOLLARS

COMPARING WET CLEANING & DRY CLEANING COSTS

TEXTILE CARE SOLUTIONS



New technologies allow wet cleaning to significantly improve throughput production over traditional dry cleaning. This makes a strong case for the eco-friendly wet cleaning process. But what about the costs associated with wet cleaning versus dry cleaning? When compared — dollar for dollar — wet cleaning is thousands less.

Initial Investment

First, let's evaluate the initial cost of each system. This is the amount required to purchase new alternative-solvent dry cleaning machines versus similarly sized Poseidon wet cleaning systems.

When the numbers are crunched, there's a \$67,000-\$72,000 cost differential in favor of Poseidon wet cleaning. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. Let's dig deeper.

1) Additional Capital Expenditures

Often, there are additional costs associated with operating a new dry cleaning machine, including upgrading boilers, chillers, air compressors and electrical. If you have to upgrade any of these because of your new dry cleaning machine, you'll fork out considerably more. Whereas, if you go with a wet cleaning system, you won't.

For example, a customer is installing an 80-pound capacity dry cleaning machine at a cost north of \$100,000 list price. It's going into an existing facility. To operate correctly, the dry cleaning machine will require the purchase of another chiller (\$16,000) and an 80 amp breaker. Additionally, the new chiller will require another 70 amp breaker. In the end, the new dry cleaning machine not only requires a new chiller, it demands a costly electrical upgrade. All this adds up.

By comparison, an 80-pound capacity Poseidon wet cleaning system, which operates on 15 amp breakers, doesn't require anything extra. So, if you add a wet cleaning system, you'll likely not have to purchase or upgrade anything else.

2) Operational Costs

We know that the minimal initial investment of a 60-pound capacity dry cleaning machine is at least \$60,000 greater than that of a similarly sized wet cleaning system. We also know other capital expenditures and upgrades are also part of the installation and operational equation. Now, let's compare labor, chemistry/solvent, regulatory/licensing fees and utility costs.

Chemistry — Initial start-up costs for chemistry for a 60-pound

wet cleaning machine is around \$2,500. It's \$5,000 for a 60-pound dry cleaning machine. From there on, there is not a huge difference.

Water — Water usage can vary. On the dry cleaning side, when a chiller is utilized to recycle water through a dry cleaning machine, very little water is used. But, a chiller costs between \$15,000 and \$30,000.

In general, a 60-pound wet cleaning machine uses 40 gallons of water per load, and over the course of a year, would go through as much water as a dry cleaning machine hooked to a water tower.

A dry cleaning machine hooked to a chiller is the most water efficient. The only problem is that this scenario requires a costly initial investment.



Cost Savings of a Poseidon Wet Cleaning System vs. an Alternative Solvent Dry Cleaning Machine

Electricity — When it comes to electricity, wet cleaning comes out ahead. This is because a dry cleaning machine requires 60-90 amps to operate, whereas a wet cleaning system requires just 15.

Natural Gas — The boiler needed to operate a dry cleaning machine uses 670,000 BTUs, which dwarfs the wet cleaning requirement of 118,000 BTUs. Plus, a boiler will run until all plant production is completed for the day. A wet cleaning system dryer operates in 15-20 minute increments a dozen times a day. Again, wet cleaning wins.

Labor — When compared, labor costs are very similar in both dry cleaning and wet cleaning.

3) Regulatory & Waste Disposal Fees

Finally, regulatory fees and waste disposal costs are not uniform across the country because each state has its own set of laws. Typically, it costs hundreds per drum for removal of dry cleaning still-bottom-solvent wastes.

On the flip side, there are never disposal or regulatory costs for wet cleaning.

Wet Cleaning — a Third of the Cost of Dry Cleaning

At the end of the day — when all factors are considered — wet cleaning costs are thousands less than those of dry cleaning. Plus, wet cleaning delivers 50 percent more throughput. That's a one-two punch that's hard to reckon with.

60 LB. CAPACITY		ALTERNATIVE SOLVENT DRY CLEANING MACHINE	POSEIDON TEXTILE CARE SYSTEMS®
List Price	\$87,760		\$27,272
Freight	\$1,900		\$700
Chemistry Pump & Solvent	\$5,000		\$2,674
Basic Install	\$4,000*		\$1,000
Total	\$98,660		\$31,646

Wet Cleaning Saves **OVER \$67,000!**

80 LB. CAPACITY		ALTERNATIVE SOLVENT DRY CLEANING MACHINE	POSEIDON TEXTILE CARE SYSTEMS®
List Price	\$100,260		\$35,513
Freight	\$2,100		\$800
Chemistry Pump & Solvent	\$6,250		\$2,674
Basic Install	\$4,000*		\$1,000
Total	\$112,610		\$39,987

Wet Cleaning Saves **OVER \$72,600!**

*Additional chillers and breakers that may be required are not included in the basic install costs.

Please contact Jeff with any questions at jquail@poseidonwetcleaning.com.