

FACTS ABOUT

AB 998 Demonstration Program

Assembly Bill 998 (AB 998) established the Non-Toxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Program to provide financial assistance to the dry cleaning industry to switch from systems using perchloroethylene (Perc), an identified toxic air contaminant and potential human carcinogen, to non-toxic and non-smog forming alternatives. The legislation also requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to establish a demonstration program to showcase these technologies statewide.

This document summarizes the Demonstration Program that was created under the Non-Toxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Program. This information is provided to new and existing dry cleaning facilities to help incentivize the conversion from Perc machines to non-toxic and non-smog forming alternatives, such as water-based and carbon dioxide (CO₂) cleaning systems.

What is the Demonstration Program?

The demonstration program for the dry cleaning industry began in 2007. Since its inception, the demonstration program has been administered by outside researchers such as the University of California, Los Angeles. The funding for this program allowed these researchers to effectively demonstrate the use of non-toxic and non-smog forming dry cleaning technologies. In 2015, the demonstration program was revised to include district participation. ARB believes the participation and effectiveness of the demonstration program will be increased by opening the program to the local districts since they have direct contact with the dry cleaners.

What are the objectives of the Demonstration Program?

The objectives of the demonstration program are to showcase the approved non-toxic and non-smog forming technologies by providing dry cleaners:

- Opportunities to view the operations of non-toxic and non-smog forming technologies at various demonstration sites,
- Educational and technical resources for approved non-toxic and non-smog forming technologies,
- Contact information of demonstration site facility owners, and
- Financial incentives for approved demonstration site facility applicants.

What is the Demonstration Site Grant?

Since the inception of the program, dry cleaners who participate as demonstration sites have been given a monetary award. Currently, ARB is allowing the opportunity for individual dry cleaners to become a demonstration site facility and qualify to receive the demonstration site grant. Depending on the eligibility requirements, the dry cleaner may be eligible to receive up to \$7,500 for the demonstration site grant. If granted, the dry cleaner will be responsible for meeting the requirements of the demonstration grant agreement for a period of 2 years. ARB is hopeful that this additional financial incentive will help move forward the replacement of Perc technologies with non-toxic and non-smog forming alternatives. Please read the demonstration site guidelines or our FAQs for more information.

What qualifies as a non-toxic, non-smog forming technology?

The following technologies satisfy the non-toxic and non-smog forming dry cleaning system requirement:

- Water-based cleaning systems
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) cleaning systems

What are the eligibility criteria for a Demonstration Site Grant?

To be eligible for a demonstration site grant, an applicant must have a dry cleaning facility located in the State of California. The applicant must operate a qualifying non-toxic, non-smog forming technology to be eligible for a demonstration site grant. Additionally, the applicant must have no outstanding local air district permit fees or be currently involved in any local air district or ARB enforcement action. Applications are accepted and processed on a continuous basis. Facilities will be awarded a demonstration site grant based on criteria of participating local air districts and ARB, with priority given to facilities that are switching from Perc and converting to a 100% non-toxic, non-smog forming facility.

New Facilities vs. Existing Facilities

There are two types of demonstration grant awards given. The first type involves dry cleaning facilities who newly replaced their Perc and non-Perc technologies with non-toxic and non-smog forming technologies. These facilities will be considered "New Installations" in the table below. The second type involves dry cleaning facilities that have already installed non-toxic and non-smog forming technologies and are eligible to become existing demonstration site facilities. These facilities will be considered "Existing Installations" in the table below.

Demonstration Site Grant Award¹

Facility Type	Demonstration Site for NEW² Installations	Demonstration Site for EXISTING³ Installations
100% Non-Toxic, Non-Smog forming, Replaced Perc	\$7,500	\$2,000
Non-Toxic, Non-Smog Forming and Perc (Mixed Shop)	\$7,500	\$1,000
100% Non-Toxic, Non-Smog Forming Only, Replaced Non-Perc Technology	\$5,000	\$2,000
Non-Toxic, Non-Smog Forming and a Non-Perc Technology (Mixed Shop)	\$2,000	\$1,000

¹ Award covers a two year demonstration agreement.

² Funds will be awarded only to facilities with newly installed non-toxic, non-smog forming technologies. Priority will be given to those who replace their Perc technologies with non-toxic and non-smog forming technologies.

³ Funds will be awarded only to existing facilities operating a non-toxic, non-smog forming technology.

For more information

For any questions, please contact Mei Fong at (916) 324-2570 or Ily Mason at (916) 323-0006 or via e-mail at dryclean@arb.ca.gov. Additional information is also available on the Dry Cleaning website at: www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/dryclean/dryclean.htm.