CHEMSTATION®

(800) 554-8265 www.chemstation.com

INSIGHTS

Vol. XIII No. 8, August 2001

WET CLEANING



Wet cleaning is an environmentally-friendly alternative to dry cleaning – and it's receiving a boost in an unlikely place – Soledad State Prison in California.

The wet cleaning process employs high-tech washing machines and dryers and special detergents that can be used on fabrics that traditionally require dry cleaning. More than 80 percent of dry cleaners nationwide clean fabrics with perchloroethylene (perc), a hazardous air pollutant. Perc-based dry cleaning is responsible for approximately 20,000 tons of toxic air emissions annually in California alone.

Inmates wet clean about 23 tons of laundry per year while learning a new trade. Prisoners clean officers' uniforms, prison employees' clothing, and laundry for local nonprofit organizations.

Since instituting the program in November, the prison has cut its laundering operating costs by 80 percent and reduced its perc use by 50 percent. ■

Source: Business & Legal Reports

NO EXEMPTION FROM OSHA

Many small businesses that hoped to be freed from federal injury and illness recordkeeping requirements recently got some bad news.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has decided not to expand the current exemption for employers with 10 or fewer workers. OSHA was previously entertaining the idea of allowing companies with 20 or fewer employees off the hook for injury reporting.

OSHA says its final decision was based on a study of its records that revealed smaller companies (contrary to popular belief) are not safer than larger companies. Although businesses with fewer than 10 workers account for only 4 percent of the work force, they account for 28 percent of all workplace deaths.



Note that the new rules update three forms employers use to list workplace injuries and illnesses, and make it easier for employers to decide if injuries and illnesses should be recorded. They also eliminate certain industries from the list of those required to keep records and add others. For more details, visit www.osha-slc.gov/recordkeeping. ■

AFFABLE AUGUST

The pleasant, friendly, good-natured Clowns of America have designated the first week in August as International Clown Week. So, smile, darn 'ya, smile! If not at the clowns, then do it because the second week in August is National Smile Week. The eighth month in the Gregorian Calendar holds little for us in the way of holidays, so be happy with the knowledge that it's National Cat Fish Month and National Golf Month. And, if you're a vegetarian and don't know a bogey from an eagle, rejoice in the fact that August 13 is International Left Hander's Day.



FEATHERS, FLUTES, AND FLOORS YEAH, WE DO THAT!

Customization is great! Especially if you're out there in business, have something that needs to be cleaned and the generic brand just isn't cutting it.

If you've been reading this newsletter for a while, you know that ChemStation manufactures customized cleaning solutions for all sorts of surfaces and industries like floors, vehicles, parts, machinery, walls, paper mills, textile plants, ceilings, and yes, even windows. But, did you know that we've also customized cleaning solutions for feathers, hands, mufflers, eggs, and flutes? Or how about cleaners for the containers that cosmetic eye makeup and liquid foundation are mixed in? Yeah, we do that.



ChemStation manufactures and distributes custom-blended, environmentally-safe, water-based detergents and process chemicals to many industries across the United States. Our chemicals are delivered in refillable plastic containers, thus eliminating the need for handling, storing and disposal of 55-gallon drums, buckets and totes. ChemStation is a strong company that has built a national reputation around a patented system of custom-formulating chemicals to exacting customer specifications and a delivery system that is unmatched in the industry. ■

CHEMSTATION®

When Manure Happens

And you thought cow patties were just something to avoid stepping in! Consider this: in the future they could help make plastics, antifreeze, cosmetics, even deodorants.

Funded by a grant from the Department of Energy, engineers and animal scientists at Washington State University and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, WA, are exploring ways of extracting valuable chemicals from manure. The waste could also provide undigested and purified proteins for making fresh feed for cattle.

Glycols, diols and other chemicals are used in many plastic products and cosmetics and are normally processed from petroleum. Rather than drawing a resource from underground, the researchers hope to scoop up another, cheaper material from farm stalls. They say the abundance of carbohydrates in animal manure could provide the building blocks for chemical production. ■

Source: ABCNEWS.com





Send your comments to:

Insights Editor, ChemStation, 3400 Encrete Lane, Dayton OH 45439
Email: kdunlap@chemstation.com

Printed on recycled paper

Soapbox

Bureaucracy defends the status quo long past the time when the quo has lost its status.

Laurence J. Peter

We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out.

Decca Recording Company rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

Vice Grips: A pair of helping hands that doesn't critique the job you're doing or offer advice.

If the nation's economists were laid end to end, they would point in all directions.

Arthur H. Motley

A compromise is the art of dividing a cake in such a way that everyone believes he has the biggest piece.

Ludwig Erhard

Many of us have heard opportunity knocking at our door, but by the time we unhooked the chain, pushed back the bolt, turned two locks, and shut off the burglar alarm – it was gone.

Anonymous

The only reason some people get lost in thought is because it's unfamiliar territory.

Paul Fix

A rumor without a leg to stand on will get around some other way.

John Tudor

When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Norm Crosby

Good advice is something a man gives when he is too old to set a bad example.

Francois de La Rochefoucault