



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
HEADQUARTERS U.S. ARMY GARRISON  
2218 6TH AVENUE  
FORT RUCKER AL 36362-5105


GC Policy Memo 19-23  
10 September 2019

IMRC-PWE

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Discontinue the Use of Reconditioned Absorbents

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to rescind previous policy on Fort Rucker for the purchase of reconditioned absorbent materials used in maintenance activities, spill cleanup, and other industrial applications. These reconditioned absorbents include rags, wipes, towels, absorbent pads, socks, and booms.
2. Sampling conducted on current reconditioned absorbents used by various organizations on the installation found that the products were contaminated with high levels of heavy metals, specifically cadmium. These levels were well above the regulatory limit for hazardous waste disposal. This was the case at most organizations whether the products were laundered or dirty. Due to the potential risks of these contaminants, Fort Rucker will discontinue the use of reconditioned absorbents.
3. All current reconditioned absorbents on the installation must be disposed of as hazardous waste. To do so, please turn in these products to the Hazardous Material Control Center for proper consolidation and disposal.
4. As a path forward, organizations will purchase disposable absorbents including paper or cloth wipes, rags, filters, spill pads, and booms from various vendors. Contaminated absorbents will then be managed as hazardous waste or non-hazardous waste as the waste stream dictates. Refer to the Fort Rucker Hazardous Waste Management Plan and Directorate of Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resources Division (DPW-ENRD) office for specific waste stream analysis.
5. For more details, please contact DPW-ENRD at 334-255-1024 or 334-255-1653.
6. This memorandum supersedes GC Policy Memo 19-23, dated 26 April 2019, and will remain in effect until changed or formally rescinded.

  
WHITNEY B. GARDNER  
COL, AV  
Garrison Commander

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