



July, 15, 2024
DOH 334-554

Frank Wear Cleaners Site Evaluation of Indoor Air Results

Terick's Early Learning Center – Yakima, WA

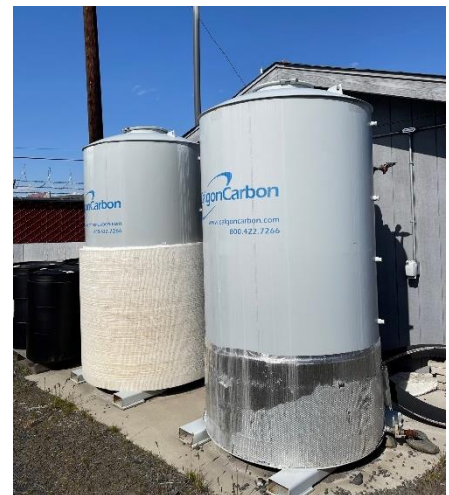
The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) continuously reviews indoor air testing data from the Terick's Early Learning Center to see if harmful contaminants are present. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has been collecting the testing data since July 2012, with the most recent testing completed in December 2023. **While the results have shown some contaminants in indoor air, our review finds that breathing in the amounts found is not harmful to children or workers at the childcare center.** A detailed [Letter Health Consultation report](http://www.doh.wa.gov/consults) (www.doh.wa.gov/consults) is posted on the Department of Health website.

Background

In the past, dry-cleaning chemicals were released into the soil and groundwater from the former Frank Wear Cleaners. Tetrachloroethylene, commonly known as "Perc" or PCE, was the main chemical released. The contaminants in the groundwater travel from the former dry cleaner property to the south/southeast. They have been found under the building next door, which is used by Terick's Early Learning Center.

When Ecology learned in 2011 that the childcare center occupied the building, they began testing the indoor air and soil gas. The test results showed vapors containing PCE. Soil gas is gas or vapor that can evaporate quickly and contaminate the indoor air.

In July 2012, Ecology took additional steps such as continuing monitoring to eliminate the hazard. This also included the installation of a system to capture and treat the underground contaminants and prevent vapors from entering the childcare center. Ecology took air samples between October 2014 to September 2015, October 2015 to May 2017, and Dec 2023 after the system was installed, to continue looking for chemicals in indoor and outdoor air and in soil gas.



On site carbon filters to treat vapors.

Evaluation Results

The most recent testing data from December 2023 continue to show that breathing in the contaminants found in the indoor air is not expected to harm the health of adults or children while Ecology takes steps to eliminate the hazard.

Recommendations

If funding is available, the Department of Health recommends continuing indoor air monitoring at Terick's Early Learning Center, and no digging in the playgrounds. Even though the contaminants found in indoor air are not expected to cause harmful health effects, monitoring will help make sure the contaminant levels don't increase in the future.

For information about human health, contact Washington Department of Health: 1- 877-485-7316.



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