

Summary of State and Federal VOC Limitations for Institutional and Consumer Products

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Introduction to VOC Limitations

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are found in everything from paints and coatings to underarm deodorant and cleaning product formulations. Moreover, VOCs have been determined to be a major contributing factor to the formation of ground-level ozone, which has been proven to be a public health concern.

Therefore, in order to reduce ground-level ozone, the U.S. Clean Air Act regulates or limits man-made emissions of VOCs. Areas of the country that do not meet national standards for ground-level ozone are referred to as “ozone nonattainment areas.” Under the Clean Air Act, these areas generally are required to reduce VOC emissions within their boundaries (not including vehicle emissions) by 3 percent each year until the national standard is met.

Emissions of VOCs, in and of themselves, do not necessarily give rise to health or environmental concerns. In many areas, however, they react with oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) in the presence of heat and sunlight to form ground-level ozone – the primary component of “smog.” For that reason, VOCs are regulated as “ozone precursors” under the U.S. Clean Air Act and similar state laws.

In order to reduce ozone levels, the U.S. EPA and numerous state agencies have issued regulations to reduce VOC emissions from a variety of sources, including products that contain solvents such as cleaning product formulations. In the case of cleaning products, the regulations limit the amount of VOCs that can be used in various product categories.

The VOC limitations issued by these various authorities is constantly evolving. On an ever increasing basis, new states are issuing VOC limitations, while states with existing limitations are expanding the reaches of their regulations as well as issuing more aggressive restrictions for existing product categories. The U.S. EPA also will soon issue more stringent national regulations.

Nonetheless, this summary provides an accurate side-by-side comparison of the VOC limitations for institutional and consumer cleaning products issued by state and federal agencies, as of the date of publication. ISSA will continue to update this summary as the VOC regulations continue to evolve.

Please note that the numerical values in the table set forth on the following pages represents percent of VOCs by weight.

Product Category	EPA	CA	IL	IN	MI	OH	OTC ¹	NH ⁷ 2017	UT ⁶
Adhesives									
Aerosols	75	75							
Mist Spray		65	65	65	65	65	65		65
Web Spray		55	55	55	55	55	55		55
Special Purpose Spray Adhesives									
Mounting, Automotive Engine Compartment & Flexible Vinyl		70	70	70	70	70	70		70
Polystyrene Foam and Automotive Headliner		65	65	65	65	65	65		65
Polyolefin and Laminate Repair/ Edgebanding		60	60	60	60	60	60		60
Construction, Panel and Floor Covering	40	7	15	15	15	15	15	7	7
General Purpose	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		80
Structural Waterproof	15		15	15	15	15	15		15
Adhesive Removers									
Gasket or Thread Locking Adhesive Remover		50	50	50	50	50	50		50
Floor or Wall Covering Adhesive Remover		5	5	5	5	5	5		5
General Purpose Adhesive Remover		20	20	20	20	20	20		20
Specialty Adhesive Remover		70	70	70	70	70	70		70
Air Fresheners									
Single Phase Aerosols	70	30	30	30	30	30	30		30
Double Phase Aerosols	30	20	25	25	25	25	25		25
Liquids, Pump Sprays	18	18	18	18	18	18	18		18
Solids, Gels	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3
Dual Purpose Air Freshener/ Disinfectant Aerosols		60						60	60
Antiperspirants	60								
Aerosols		40	40	40	40	40	40		40
		10	10	10	10	10	10		10
		0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Non-Aerosols		0	0	0	0	0	0		0
		0	0	0	0	0	0		0
		0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Anti-Static Products									
Aerosols		80						80	80
Non-Aerosols		11	11	11	11	11	11		11
Automotive Brake Cleaners		10	45	45	45	45	45		10
Automotive Rubbing and Polishing Compounds		17	17	17	17	17	17		17
Automotive Wax, Polish, Sealant or Glaze									
Hard Paste Waxes		45	45	45	45	45	45		45
Instant Detailers		3	3	3	3	3	3		3
All Other Forms		15	15	15	15	15	15		15
Automotive Windshield Washer Fluids	35		35	35	35	35	35		35
Type "A" Areas		25							
All Other Areas		10							
Dilutable and Pre-Mixed		1							

Product Category	EPA	CA	IL	IN	MI	OH	OTC ¹	NH ⁷ 2017	UT ⁶
Bathroom and Tile Cleaners									
Aerosols	7	7	7	7	7	7	7		7
All Other Forms	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		
Non-Aerosol		1						1	1
Bug and Tar Removers		40	40	40	40	40	40		40
Carburetor and Fuel Injection Air Intake Cleaners	75	10	45	45	45	45	45	10	10
Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners									
Aerosols		5	7	7	7	7	7		7
Non-Aerosols (Dilutables)		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		0.1
Non-Aerosols (Ready to Use)		1	3	3	3	3	3		3
Contact Adhesives	80	80		80	80				
General Purpose		55		55		55	55		55
Special Purpose		80		80		80	80		80
Cooking Sprays									
Aerosols	18	18	18	18	18	18	18		18
Deodorants	20								
Aerosols		0 HVOC	0 HVOC	0 HVOC	0 HVOC	0 HVOC	0 HVOC		0 HVOC
		10 MVOC	10 MVOC	10 MVOC	10 MVOC	10 MVOC	10 MVOC		10 MVOC
Non-Aerosols		0 HVOC	0 HVOC	0 HVOC	0 HVOC	0 HVOC	0 HVOC		0 HVOC
		0 MVOC	0 MVOC	0 MVOC	0 MVOC	0 MVOC	0 MVOC		0 MVOC
Disinfectants									
Aerosols		70						70	70
Non-Aerosols		1						1	1
Dusting Aids									
Aerosols	35	17	25	25	25	25	25		25
All Other Forms	7	3	7	7	7	7	7		7
Electrical Cleaner		45	45	45	45	45	45		45
Electronic Cleaner		75	75	75	75	75	75		75
Engine Degreasers	75	50							
Aerosols		10	35	35	35	35	35	10	10
Non-Aerosols		5	5	5	5	5	5		5
Fabric Protectants	75	60	60	60	60	60	60		60
Non-Aerosols		1							
Fabric Refresher									
Aerosols		15	15	15	15	15	15		15
Non-Aerosols		6	6	6	6	6	6		6
Floor Maintenance Product		1							
Floor Polishes/ Waxes									
Products for Flexible (Resilient) Flooring Materials	7	1	7	7	7	7	7	1	1
Products for Non-Resilient Flooring	10	1	10	10	10	10	10	1	1
Wood Floor Wax	90	70	90	90	90	90	90		90

Product Category	EPA	CA	IL	IN	MI	OH	OTC¹	NH⁷ 2017	UT⁶
Floor Wax Strippers		See Reg	See Reg	See Reg	See Reg	See Reg	See Reg		See Reg
Non-Aerosols (For Light or Medium Build-Up)		3	3	3	3	3	3		3
Non-Aerosols (For Heavy Build-Up)		12	12	12	12	12	12		12
Footwear or Leather Care Product									
Aerosols		75	75	75	75	75	75		75
Solids		55	55	55	55	55	55		55
All Other Forms		15	15	15	15	15	15		15
Furniture Maintenance Products									
Aerosols	25	12	17	17	17	17	17		17
Non-Aerosols		3						3	3
All Other Forms Except Solid/ Paste		7	7	7	7	7	7		
General Purpose Cleaners	10								
Aerosols		8	10	10	10	10	10	8	8
Non-Aerosols		0.5	4	4	4	4	4		4
General Purpose Degreasers									
Aerosols		10	50	50	50	50	50	10	10
Non-Aerosols		0.5	4	4	4	4	4		4
Glass Cleaners									
Aerosols	12	10	12	12	12	12	12		12
Non-Aerosols	8	3	4	4	4	4	4		4
Graffiti Remover									
Aerosols		50	50	50	50	50	50		50
Non-Aerosols		30	30	30	30	30	30		30
Hair Mousses	16	6	6	6	6	6	6		6
Hairshines		55	55	55	55	55	55		55
Hairsprays	80	55	55	55	55	55	55		55
Hair Styling Gels	6	6	6	6	6	6	6		6
Hair Styling Products									
Aerosols		6	6	6	6	6	6		6
Pump Spray		6	6	6	6	6	6		6
All Other Forms		2	2	2	2	2	2		2
Heavy Duty Hand Cleaner or Soap		1	8	8	8	8	8		8
Insecticides									
Crawling Bug (Aerosol)		15	15	15	15	15	15		15
Crawling Bug (All Other Forms)	40 (all)	20	20	20	20	20	20		20
Flea and Tick	25	25	25	25	25	25	25		25
Flying Bug (Aerosol)		20	25	25	25	25	25		25
Flying Bug (All Other Forms)	35 (all)	35	35	35	35	35	35		35
Foggers	45	45	45	45	45	45	45		45
Lawn and Garden (Aerosol)	20 (all)	20	20	20	20	20	20		20
Lawn and Garden (All Other Forms)		3	3	3	3	3	3		3

Product Category	EPA	CA	IL	IN	MI	OH	OTC¹	NH⁷ 2017	UT⁶
Wasp and Hornet		10	40	40	40	40	40		40
Insect Repellants (Aerosols)		65							
Laundry Prewash									
Aerosols/ Solids	22	22	22	22	22	22	22		22
All Other Forms	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5
Laundry Starch (Sizing/ Fabric Finish) Products	5	4.5	5	5	5	5	5	4.5	4.5
Lubricant									30
Anti-Seize Lubricant (aerosol)		40							
Anti-Seize Lubricant (nonaerosol)		3							
Cutting or Tapping Oil (aerosol)		25							
Cutting or Tapping Oil (nonaerosol)		3							
Gear, Chain, or Wire Lubricant (aerosol)		25							
Gear, Chain, or Wire Lubricant (nonaerosol)		3							
Multi-Purpose Lubricant (Excluding Solid or Semi-Solid Products)		25	50	50	50	50	50		50
Penetrants		25	50	50	50	50	50		50
Rust Preventative or Rust Control Lubricant (aerosol)		25							
Rust Preventative or Rust Control Lubricant (nonaerosol)		3							
Metal Polishes / Cleaners			30	30	30	30	30		30
Aerosols		15							
Nonaerosol		3							
Motor Vehicle Wash									
Non-Aerosols		0.2							
Multi-Purpose Solvent		3						3	3 ³
Nail Polish Remover	85	1	75	75	75	75	75	1	1
Non-Selective Terrestrial Herbicide (Non-Aerosols)		3	3	3	3	3	3		3
Odor Remover/Eliminator									
Aerosols		25							
Non-Aerosols		6							
Oven Cleaners									
Aerosols / Pump Sprays	8	8	8	8	8	8	8		8
Liquids	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5
Non-Aerosols (Including Pump Sprays & Liquids)		4						4	4
Paint Removers and Strippers		50	50	50	50	50	50		50
Paint Thinner		3						3	30 ⁴
Personal Fragrance Products									
Products with 20% or less fragrance		75							
Products with more than 20% fragrance		65							
Pressurized Gas Duster		1							
Rubber and Vinyl Protectants									
Aerosols		10	10	10	10	10	10		10 ⁵

Product Category	EPA	CA	IL	IN	MI	OH	OTC ¹	NH ⁷ 2017	UT ⁶
Non-Aerosols		3	3	3	3	3	3		3
Sanitizers									
Aerosols		70						70	70
Non-Aerosols		1						1	1
Sealants and Caulking Compounds									
All Forms		4	4	4	4	4	4		4
Chemically Curing Non-Aerosol		3							
Non-Chemically Curing Non-Aerosol		1.5							
Shaving Creams	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5
Shaving Gels		4	7	7	7	7	7		4
Silicone Multi-Purpose Lubricants (Excluding Solids & Semi-Solids)		60	60	60	60	60	60		60
Spot Removers									
Aerosols		15	25	25	25	25	25		25
Non-Aerosols		3	8	8	8	8	8		8
Temporary Hair Color (Aerosol) (Effective 12/21/2010)		55						55	55
Tire Sealants and Inflators		20	20	20	20	20	20		20
Tire or Wheel Cleaner									
Aerosols		8							
Non-Aerosols		2							
Toilet/ Urinal Care Product									
Aerosols		10			10		10 ²		10
Non-Aerosols		3			3		3 ²		3
Undercoatings (Aerosols)		40	40		40	40	40		40
Windshield Water Repellant		75							
Wood Cleaners									
Aerosols		17	17	17	17	17	17		17
Non-Aerosols		4	4	4	4	4	4		4

1. The VOC limits listed in the "OTC" column apply in the following jurisdictions: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington D.C. In addition, New Hampshire recently amended its VOC limits for a number of product categories which become effective January 1, 2017. These new limits are represented in the column headed by 'NH 2017'.
2. These limits do not apply in New Hampshire
3. Effective January 1, 2015
4. Effective January 1, 2016, VOC limit goes to 3%
5. Effective January 1, 2016
6. All Utah VOC limits are effective September 1, 2014 unless otherwise noted.
7. This column represents new VOC limits for New Hampshire that are effective January 1, 2017. For all other existing New Hampshire VOC limits, please refer to the column headed by "OTC."

Links to VOC Regulations

The following links will take you to the text of the underlying state and federal VOC regulations for institutional and consumer cleaning products.

1. California

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/consprod/regs/cp.pdf>

2. Connecticut

<http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/air/regulations/mainregs/sec40consumerprod.pdf>

3. Delaware

<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title7/1000/1100/1141.pdf>

4. Illinois

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/035/035002230B02050R.html>

5. Indiana

http://www.in.gov/idem/files/apcb_2010_sept_07-351_prapa.pdf

6. Maine

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/06/096/096c152.doc>

7. Maryland

<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/SubtitleSearch.aspx?search=26.11.32>

(Reference Section 26.11.32)

8. Massachusetts

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/service/regulations/310cmr07.pdf>

(Reference Section 7.25)

9. Michigan

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3310_4108-173523--,00.html

10. New Hampshire

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/documents/env-a4100.pdf>

11. New Jersey

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqm/Sub24.pdf>

12. New York

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/regs/2492.html>

(Reference Section 235)

13. Ohio

http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/regs/3745_112.aspx

14. Pennsylvania

<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/chapter130/chap130toc.html>

(Reference 130.21)

15. Rhode Island

http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/air/air31_09.pdf

16. Virginia

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/air/pdf/airregs/4504.pdf>

17. Washington, DC

<http://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Gateway/RuleHome.aspx?RuleNumber=20-720>

18. U.S. EPA

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=1998_register&docid=98-22660-filed.pdf