

U.S. EPA Investigating Possible Vapor Intrusion in Area Stores

Former North Suburban Cleaners Site
Morton Grove, Illinois

November 2016

For more information

For questions, comments or more information about the North Suburban Cleaners site cleanup, contact these EPA team members:

For technical questions:

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For health-related questions:

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You may call U.S. EPA toll-free at
800-621-8431, weekdays,
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For more information

Visit U.S. EPA's website at
www.epa.gov/il/former-north-suburban-cleaners

An information repository that contains official documents about the site is at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been working with Illinois EPA and the village of Morton Grove on the potential release of cancer-causing vapors from the former North Suburban Cleaners site.

U.S. EPA collected air samples in May from four homes north, east and northeast of the site to check for possible indoor air contamination. Technicians also took backyard soil gas samples at these four homes. The Agency found no elevated levels from the former North Suburban Cleaners site.

In July, U.S. EPA also collected indoor air samples from three of the four businesses in the North Dempster Street mini-mall where the former dry cleaning business was located. Results from these samples **show it is safe to do business and shop in these stores at this time.**

U.S. EPA is working with Morton Grove to keep the public informed of sampling activities and results.

About the site

The former North Suburban Cleaners operated at 7620-7622 Dempster St. from approximately 1965 until 2008, when dry cleaning machines and stored solvents were removed. The space is now a specialty grocery company.

Use of dry cleaning solvents at the site led to solvents in the soil and groundwater. The contamination is from chemicals called trichloroethylene, or TCE; tetrachloroethylene, commonly known as PCE; and vinyl chloride. TCE, PCE and vinyl chloride are in a class of chemicals called volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. VOCs can dissolve in water and evaporate easily, giving off vapors that can be inhaled.

Sampling results from 2014 indicate concentrations of specific VOCs in the groundwater have decreased over time. However, those VOCs have also been found in soil gas samples collected at and around the former dry cleaning plant area. Soil gas concentrations generally decrease with distance from the source and when soil is exposed to the air, such as in landscaped areas or lawns.

Next steps

The Agency is working with the property owner to determine a cleanup plan.



Photo shows indoor air sampling equipment.



Site location is highlighted in yellow.

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**FORMER NORTH SUBURBAN CLEANERS SITE:
U.S. EPA Investigating Contamination**

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