

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Numbers: 04-016	
Subject: PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS AND EQUIPMENT	Effective Date 3/1/08	Page 1 of 1

PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS AND EQUIPMENT

A variety of chemicals including fixers, developers, replenishers, and stabilizers are used in photographic development processes. Some of these processes generate hazardous materials such as silver, chromium, and corrosive substances that must be disposed of in accordance with Federal Regulations. Please follow these guidelines when working with photographic chemicals and equipment.

1. PURCHASE

- 1.1 Do not purchase excessive quantities of photographic chemicals. Purchase the only the minimum, useable amounts of chemicals as needed.
- 1.2 Photographic chemicals often have limited shelf life. Purchase only the amounts that would be used prior to expiration.
- 1.3 Photographic equipment that processes materials classified as a regulated waste should be selected or retro-fitted with a recovery system that prevents discharge of regulated material into the sanitary system.

2. STORAGE

- 2.1 Segregate all incompatible chemicals. Consult chemical-specific Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for chemical incompatibilities and storage requirements.

3. HANDLING AND USE

- 3.1 Wear appropriate protective equipment (lab coat, safety glasses, gloves, etc.) when handling photographic products and chemicals.
- 3.2 When collecting used photographic chemicals, label each container with a completed orange Chemical Waste label. Chemical Waste labels are available by contacting Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S).
- 3.3 All recovery systems must be emptied and serviced per manufacturer instructions.

4. DISPOSAL

- 4.1 Photographic processing chemicals must be collected and disposed through the University's chemical waste program. **Do not dispose photographic chemicals through the sanitary sewer or in the garbage.**