

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Numbers: 04-016	
Subject: PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS AND EQUIPMENT	Effective Date: 03/01/2010 Review Date: 09/23/2019	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. Photographic chemicals often have limited shelf life. Purchase only the amounts that will be used in a short period of time and prior to expiration.
- 1.2 Photographic equipment that processes materials classified as a regulated waste must be selected or retro-fitted with a recovery system (such as a silver recovery unit) that prevents discharge of regulated material into the sanitary system. Consult the vendor to ensure proper equipment maintenance. Contact EH&S for information related to photographic chemical recovery system maintenance contractors. (412-624-9505)

2. STORAGE

- 2.1 Segregate all incompatible chemicals. Consult Safety Data Sheets (SDS) 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.**