

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND X-RAY CHEMICALS

Some chemicals used in photographic and X-ray equipment contain heavy metals like silver, chromium, lead, and selenium, which must be treated as hazardous waste.



Photographic Chemicals and Materials

The following photographic chemicals cannot be disposed of down the drain and must be shipped offsite for disposal by EH&S:

- Developer solutions containing hydroquinone or heavy metals such as barium or selenium.
- Used photographic fixer solutions
- Old or expired photographic paper and film.

All waste photographic chemicals must be managed according to the following guidelines:

- Containers must be in good condition and compatible with the spent fixer.
- All spent photographic fixers must have a “Hazardous Waste” label clearly listing the contents of the container (e.g., “silver-bearing solution” or “spent fixer solution”). Labels can be obtained from EH&S.
- The date the waste container was filled must be written on the label.
- Contact EH&S to arrange for pickup and disposal.

The following photographic developers and chemicals may be disposed of down the sanitary sewer, depending on their chemical composition:

- Developer solutions that do not contain hydroquinone or heavy metals above the specified limits.
- Stop baths
- Photo Flo (surfactant)

X-Ray Materials

The use of digital X-ray technology is highly recommended, as it eliminates the need for hazardous chemicals and reduces the volume of hazardous waste generated for disposal. Negatives from X-ray units, microfilm originals, and lead foils must be collected and shipped offsite for recycling by EH&S.



To dispose of photographic chemicals and materials, please submit an online pickup request using the EH&S Chemical/Bio Waste Pickup Request form available at: <https://csn.campusoptics.com/hw/chemical-bio-waste-pick-up-request-form>. Please contact EH&S at 702-651-7445 or ehs@csn.edu if you have any questions.