

Occupational and Environmental Safety Office	Policy #:	1.2
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PHOTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPER AND FIXER DISPOSAL

Some laboratories, clinics, and departments at Duke University, Duke University Medical Center, and Duke University Health Systems utilize “wet chemistry” photo developing units. Photographic developer can have a high pH which may make any unused product a hazardous waste. Fixer contains silver which is subject to regulatory management standards. Both developer and fixer, if improperly managed in the department, could pose a safety risk to Duke Personnel and the environment.

This procedure applies to all departments at Duke University, Duke University Medical Center, and Duke University Health Systems who use photographic developer and fixer.

Disposal Options

1. Unused developer has a high pH and should be submitted to OESO for proper disposal. If the pH of the used developer is between 5 and 12, it can be released for drain disposal. Otherwise, the used developer will need to be collected and submitted to OESO for proper disposal. *Note: If the developer contains HYDROQUINONE, used and unused portions must be collected and submitted to OESO for disposal.*
2. Fixer contains silver at concentrations (> 5 ppm) above the allowable limits for drain disposal. The silver must be recovered by a silver recovery unit before the fixer can go down the drain or the fixer must be collected and submitted to OESO for proper disposal.
 - Companies that service “wet” photo developing units
 Blue Ridge X-Ray – 1-800-727-7290
 Source One Charlotte – 1-800-635-9729
3. Unwanted, unused, or used developer with a high pH and fixer should be managed according to the [Chemical Waste Management Practice](#) for non-laboratory users or the [Laboratory Chemical Waste Management Practice](#).

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An official hardcopy of this document exists in the OESO Office or on the [OESO Website](#).