

## **Guidance on Film Processing Chemicals - Disposal or Reclamation**

This guidance applies to all facilities that use film processing for developing radiographic films.

Concerns regarding the disposal of chemicals used in the processing of radiographic film are related to the chemicals contained within film processor fluids, specifically the heavy metal toxicity associated with silver. Film processing chemicals do not become radioactive with use in the radiography facility. Facilities have two options for getting rid of film processing chemicals: disposal or reclamation.

### **Disposal**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates hazardous and specialty waste, as well as wastewater. Facilities disposing of film processing chemical waste must consult with and adhere to DEQ regulations prior to disposal.

### **Reclamation**

Facilities may also consider recycling the chemicals to reclaim the silver, which may have some economic value depending on the market value of silver. Large generators of radiographic film processor fluids may consider this approach. Smaller facilities may consider asking the vendor providing the film processing chemicals if they have either a disposal program or a recycling program. Any waste resulting from the reclamation process must be disposed of according to DEQ regulations.

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## Revision History

Date	Summary of Changes
12/05/2018	Original document created.
1/12/2023	Document reviewed and amended. Minor edits to improve grammar and clarity.

## Contact

Office of Radiological Health  
Virginia Department of Health  
109 Governor St, Room 733  
Richmond, VA 23219  
Main line: 804-864-8150  
[radhealth-comments@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:radhealth-comments@vdh.virginia.gov)