



Radiography Waste Management in Research Laboratories

Introduction

Used fixer from gel radiography and other film developing procedures contain silver. The EPA regulates silver as a hazardous waste. Waste solutions (such as used fixer) containing greater than 5 PPM of silver must be managed in accordance with UMDNJ's Hazardous Waste Management Program and never poured down the drain.

Disposal Options

- ♦ Run solutions through a silver recovery processor, ensuring that the silver recovery unit is changed often enough to ensure the discharge meets the EPA limit.
- ♦ Collect and dispose of used solutions through EOHSS.

Silver Recovery: Easy to Implement, Environmentally Friendly and Low Cost

For Piscataway, New Brunswick, Stratford and Camden facilities, RWJMS Shared Equipment Services (732-235-4455) has a contract with a vendor to provide silver recovery services at a group rate. Shared Equipment Services will ensure that the silver recovery units are changed as often as necessary, will ensure testing to determine when the cartridges are becoming spent and will maintain copies of all required documentation. (Each department must also maintain documentation).

Departments who purchase silver recovery services individually must ensure and document that their silver recovery unit(s) meet regulatory limits. The vendor should provide a bill of lading and certificate of recycling each time silver is removed. This information should be kept on file for three years.

Film Processing Units that do not have a Silver Recovery System:

Departments not employing silver recovery must collect the waste for disposal through EOHSS. Follow all hazardous waste procedures. This includes:

- ♦ Collect waste in a container < 5 gallons with a screw-top cap. Only open the container when adding waste to it.
- ♦ Affix a hazardous waste label and start filling in the ingredients upon use.
- ♦ Keep the container clean and sound, and store with label facing out.
- ♦ Date the container when it is full and arrange to bring it to the EOHSS hazardous waste room within three days.

Contact Information:



Newark Campus
(973) 972-4812 ♦ Fax (973) 972-3694

Piscataway/New Brunswick Campus
(732) 235-4058 ♦ Fax (732) 235-5270

Scotch Plains Campus
(908) 889-2486 ♦ Fax (908) 889-2496

Camden/Stratford Campus
(856) 566-6189 ♦ Fax (856) 566-6352

Website ♦ <http://www2.umdnj.edu/eohssweb>