

# DISPOSAL OPTIONS FOR X-RAY AND PHOTOGRAPHIC FIXER

Pollution  
Prevention  
Assistance



## Thurston County Business Pollution Prevention Program

☎ 360-867-2664

👂 TDD: 360-867-2603

## SILVER MATTERS

Medical facilities and other businesses generate waste silver as part of the imaging processes (x-ray and photograph development). Since silver is a toxic persistent heavy metal, it must be managed properly to protect human health and the environment. How you decide to manage your waste largely depends on the quantity produced. Businesses that generate larger quantities may choose to purchase on-site silver recovery systems, while businesses producing minimal processing waste may prefer drop-off or pick-up waste management services.

Small changes  
make a  
**BIG**   
difference!

## ON-SITE SILVER TREATMENT

It is illegal to dispose of any image-processing chemicals into an on-site septic system. For businesses generating larger quantities of silver wastes, installing a silver recovery system may be a good option. These systems remove silver from solutions utilizing chemical recovery cartridges (CRCs) and produce a non-hazardous liquid that can be discharged to a municipal sewer system. Since silver is a valuable commodity, a refining company may then process the spent CRCs and recycle the raw silver. However, due to startup costs, refining fees, and regular maintenance, these systems may not be economical for businesses producing small quantities of silver-bearing waste.

Before considering such systems, please review the [Best Management Practices for Dental Office Waste](#) publication produced by Ecology.<sup>1</sup>

## DISPOSAL

Wastes can be disposed of via a private vendor or at a drop off location. Thurston County HazoHouse offers a free drive-thru service with no appointment necessary. Hours of operation are daily from 8:00 a.m.- 4:45 p.m. For questions please call (360) 867-2912.

## THURSTON COUNTY HAZOHOUSE

Spent fixer and silver recovery cartridges (bucket-type filters) are accepted free of charge at Thurston County HazoHouse. HazoHouse will accept other types of hazardous waste (including fluorescent lamps, batteries, developer, and lead) for a small fee.

- ◆ To use this service, your business must be a small quantity generator (SQG) of dangerous waste.<sup>2</sup> Please refer to WAC 173-303-169 for generator status determination.
- ◆ Customers are limited to disposing of five gallons per shipment; larger quantities may be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Please call for an appointment for shipments larger than five gallons.
- ◆ Never mix developer with fixer. Mixed waste will damage the silver treatment system.

For more information:

🌐 <http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov>

✉ [PHSSPollutionPrevention@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:PHSSPollutionPrevention@co.thurston.wa.us)

In partnership



<sup>1</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/0604007.html>

<sup>2</sup> WAC 173-303-169. <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303-169>