

From the handout: Where to recycle what in Rockbridge County...?

Disposing of Photo Chemicals



DEVELOPER and STOP BATH:

- Mix the two substances together in a ventilated container to a pH level between five and seven.
- You can buy test strips to measure the pH level.
- Unused developer that contains hydroquinone must be turned in as hazardous waste.

FIXER:

- Fixer can be reused — the high content of silver has to be removed from the liquid; the metal pieces can be recycled. To do silver recovery, the simple way is to pour it in a soda bottle with a ball of steel wool. The silver will combine with the steel wool and you can dispose of the liquid a week later.
- Another option is that most photo labs will accept spent fixer.

STABILIZERS:

- Stabilizer is another photo chemical that requires silver filtration and recycling.
- There are many toners used in photography which have a wide variety of ingredients. Some utilize heavy metals, others contain highly toxic chemicals. For any toner, look at the bottle or box for proper disposal instructions.