

Photographic Processing Trade Waste Guideline No. 1

INTRODUCTION

Trade Waste discharges from photographic processing machines/equipment have the potential to adversely affect the sewerage system. SA Water acknowledges and endorses the PURE ([Photographic Uniform Regulations for the Environment](#)) Photographic Industry Code of Practice and its contents have been used to develop this policy.

This Guideline applies to waterless and water wash minilabs, x-ray/microfilm laboratories, dental/medical clinics, x-ray centres, hospital, graphic arts and schools.

DISPOSAL OPTIONS FOR SILVER-RICH WASTE

Silver-rich solutions are not permitted to be discharged to the sewerage system in any quantity. They must be managed by one of the following:

1. Installation of an approved (warranted by PURE) silver recovery unit for on-site treatment and disposal to the sewerage system or
2. Secure on-site storage, pending collection by a licensed (by EPA) contractor and off-site disposal to an approved (by EPA) waste facility.

PRETREATMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SEWER DISPOSAL OPTION

- All silver-rich solutions must be plumbed via a PURE warranted silver recovery unit.
- Discharge from the silver recovery unit must not exceed 50mg/l of residual silver.
- Buffer / Balancing / Neutraliser tanks are **not** required except for hospital photographic applications where silver recovery unit **batch** discharges exceed 40 litres.
For continuous flow through Silver recovery unit discharges in hospitals, no buffer tanks are required.
- Waste water not containing silver may be discharged directly to sewer.
- All discharges to sewer must comply with a pH of 6-10 units at all times.
- Copper waste lines are **not permitted**. Acceptable alternatives are PVC or polyplastic (ethylene/propylene).
- All businesses must fully comply with the PURE Code of Practice.

BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ASPECTS

- Silver-rich solutions must be stored in a bunded area and comply with [Trade Waste Bunding Guideline No4](#).
- A wash water limiter or control system must be installed on all water wash processors so that water is only used when film or paper is being processed.
- Chromium based cleaning solutions are not permitted.

MAINSWATER PROTECTION

- Mains water protection from contamination by backflow shall be in accordance with Australian Standard AS/NZS3500- 2003 Part 1.

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Further information

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