

Hazardous Waste Factsheet

“It is illegal to dispose of any image-processing chemicals into an on-site septic system.”

Disposal Options for Used X-ray and Photographic Fixer

The Problem

Medical facilities and other businesses generate waste silver fixer as part of imaging processes. Since silver is a toxic, persistent heavy metal, it must be managed properly in order 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 wastes may prefer drop-off or pick-up waste management services.

On-site Silver Treatment: For businesses generating larger quantities of silver waste, 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 visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/dentalbmps/x-ray_recovery.html for additional details. It is illegal to dispose of any image-processing chemicals into an on-site septic system.

Pick-up Services: The following companies offer pick-up services in Thurston County. *Disposal fees apply.*

- CMX Corporation: (800) 869-7191
- Hallmark Refining: (800) 255-1895
- Safety-Kleen: (800) 669-5948
- X-ray Used Fixer Service: (253) 318-9921

Free Drop-off Services: There are *free* waste management services in Thurston County offering convenient drop-off locations. These services are ideal for businesses that do not generate enough waste (less than 5 gallons per month) to justify the cost of on-site treatment systems or other waste pick-up services.

- 1) Thurston County HazoHouse: *Free Drive-Thru Service, No appointment necessary.* Hours of operation are Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Please call (360) 867-2664 with questions.
- 2) LOTT Alliance – Budd Inlet Treatment Plant: *Free Drop-off Service, No appointment necessary.* Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Contact Ken Butti at (360) 528-5708 for more details.

Any business that transports waste to drop-off locations must comply with Department of Transportation regulations. Please call Thurston County for additional details.

Thurston County Public
Health and Social Services
Environmental Health Division

412 Lilly Rd. NE
Olympia, WA 98506-5132
Hazardous Waste Hotline:
360-867-2664

TDD Line: 360-867-2603

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw/index.html>



Additional Information about the Thurston County HazoHouse and LOTT Services:

- 1) Spent fixer and silver recovery cartridges (bucket-type filters) are accepted free of charge at both HazoHouse and LOTT. HazoHouse will accept other types of hazardous waste (i.e. fluorescent lamps, developer, lead, etc) for a small fee.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Never mix developer with fixer. Mixed waste will damage the silver treatment system.
- 4) HazoHouse and LOTT may provide a limited number of reusable storage containers free of charge. Please call for availability.
- 5) In order to use this service, your business must be a Small Quantity Generator (SQG) as per Washington State Department of Ecology regulations.

Directions to Thurston County's HazoHouse:



Directions to LOTT Alliance's Budd Inlet Treatment Plant (Main Entrance-Adams St):



Thurston County's Business Pollution Prevention program offers free, non-regulatory on-site technical assistance to local businesses. Please contact the Business Pollution Prevention Program at (360) 867-2664, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or at TDD (360) 867-2603 or see our website at <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw/index.html> for more details about our program.

