

PROPER FILM FIXING PROCEDURE

It is important to have fresh Fixer on hand *before* developing film. This can only happen when people follow the proper procedure for Fixing film and then checking the quality of the Fixer. This includes not pouring Used Fixer down the drain, putting the Used Fixer into the Silver Recovery system, and always mixing fresh fixer when encountering Bad Fixer.

The result of not checking Used Fixer is twofold; either the Used Fixer gets poured down the drain, which is illegal and bad for health and the environment, or Bad Used Fixer gets added to the Fresh Fixer bottle and the next person 's film does not get fixed properly and is ruined. If new Fresh Fixer is not mixed after putting Bad Fixed into the Silver Recovery system, then the next person will have no Fresh Fixer and that is disrespectful and selfish. You would not like to come in and find no Fresh Fixer on hand nor do you want to have your film ruined by using Bad Fixer. Remember the Golden Rule! The Film Lab is a community and we must all work together and help each other to get the best results from our work.

Because of the OSHA Standards it is now illegal to pour Used Fixer down the drain. The quality must be checked after film fixing and if it is bad it must be put into the Silver Recovery system. When this happens it is the responsibility of the student to immediately mix a new batch of fresh Fixer. note: OSHA stands for the 'Occupational Safety and Health Administration'.

Here is the proper Film Fixing procedure:

pour the Fixer _____ into the Developing Tank
agitate _____ for the first 30 seconds
agitate 5 seconds _____ every 30 seconds thereafter
consistent and even agitation is critical for good film development
empty the Used Fixer **into a beaker**, never down the drain!
begin pouring out _____ the Used Fixer 15 seconds *before* the fixing time is up
the timer should hit 0 when the last drop of Fixer comes out of the tank
pour in Water _____ to stop the Fixer and rinse the film
you can let this sit while you check the fixer
check the Used Fixer _____ in the beaker for exhaustion
add 2 drops _____ of Hypo-Check to the Used Fixer
if _____ the Hypo-Check remains clear, the Used Fixer is **GOOD**
pour the Used Fixer _____ back onto the Fresh Fixer bottle
then continue _____ on to the next step in the Film Developing process
if _____ a white precipitate forms, the Used Fixer is **BAD** (aka exhausted)
suck the Used Fixer _____ into the Silver Recovery system
then pour out _____ the entire bottle of Fresh Fixer
and mix a new batch _____ of Fixer and pour into the Fresh Fixer bottle

next step:
put the film _____ into Fixer-Remover

note: If your film comes out of your tank and the parts of the film that should be clear are very dark, e.g. the edges and the highlights, the film has not 'cleared' indicating that it has not been properly fixed. Immediately put the film back into a tank full of Fresh Fixer and re-fix the film. It will clear up and be okay. Then repeat **all** the steps after the Fixer step in the Film Development process. If you wait too long the dark film will become permanent and the film is ruined.