

Silver Discharge Compliance and Pretreatment Standards for Photo Processors, X-Ray Developers and Printers

Due to silver accumulating in the MRWPCA Regional Treatment Plant sludge, and widespread non-compliance with Sewer-Use Ordinance 2008-01, Article 2, Section 2.10.1 that states "No person shall discharge wastewater containing in excess of 2.3 mg/l silver" MRWPCA is requiring the following minimum pretreatment standards for photo processors, x-ray developers and printers who generate spent fixer solutions:

One electrolytic silver recovery unit and one five gallon canister tailing unit with proper maintenance including frequent inspections and canister replacement as required (or other alternative equipment approved by the MRWPCA)

OR

Two five-gallon silver recovery canisters (metallic replacement) in series with frequent inspections and replacement as required (or other alternative equipment approved by the MRWPCA)

OR

Haul all spent fixer solutions, complying with local, state and federal hazardous waste storage, transportation, disposal and manifest regulations

Direct discharge of untreated spent fixer solutions to the sanitary sewer is prohibited. Spent developer solutions may be disposed of to the sanitary sewer.

The MRWPCA appreciates your cooperation in this matter. Please contact the Source Control Division at (831) 883-1118 or 424-1108 if you need any assistance or have questions concerning discharge to the sanitary sewer.