



## *-Photographic Developers-* Waste Reduction Fact Sheet

---

### GENERAL TIPS

---

- ◆ Support recycling efforts by purchasing materials containing recycled materials such as film envelopes, and paper made from post-consumer recycled paper fibres.
- ◆ Make it company policy to purchase "environmentally friendly" products wherever possible. Look for the *Environmental Choice* label on products where they are available.
- ◆ Use non-hazardous products whenever possible (e.g. cleaning solutions).
- ◆ Only buy what is necessary and purchase in bulk when it is feasible to do so.
- ◆ If your store is located in a shopping mall/complex, participate in any 3Rs or blue box program in place.
- ◆ Use cloth rags for cleaning rather than paper towels. Then contract a linen and laundry service to wash them and supply you with fresh ones.
- ◆ Implement a "first in, first out" inventory system, while continually monitoring expiration dates.
- ◆ Work with suppliers to eliminate excess packaging. Encourage them to use returnable/recyclable containers.
- ◆ If suppliers will not take back containers or packaging materials try other suppliers or examine other methods of reusing or recycling the material.
- ◆ Ensure all staff are aware of and familiar with all company waste reduction programs, policies and objectives. Keep them informed. Set up a staff waste reduction committee.

*In order to achieve the target of at least 60% diversion of waste from disposal by 2008, the Province of Ontario has passed regulations requiring specific waste generators to conduct waste audits, develop waste reduction workplans and source separate recyclable materials. Details of Ontario's 3Rs Regulations and guides on audits and workplans can be found on the Ministry of the Environment's website, [www.ene.gov.on.ca/pic.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/pic.htm).*

*Many companies have already instituted waste reduction programs knowing that the financial benefits to their business would be substantial. These benefits come in the form of reduced disposal charges, lower supply cost and an enhanced corporate image. In general, waste reduction is a means of achieving a higher degree of efficiency in your operation.*

*This fact sheet and others in the series have been developed by the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators (AMRC), and funded by the Province of Ontario, to assist you in your waste diversion efforts. The tips given here are by no means a complete list of possible reduction methods, but they will provide a solid basis for beginning a waste diversion program.*

---

### IN THE STORE

---

- ◆ Use the backside of scrap paper for memos and phone messages.
- ◆ Don't supply disposable cups for coffee, purchase reusable ones instead.
- ◆ Encourage employees to bring "garbage-free" lunches.
- ◆ Turn off all office equipment, including lights when not in use.
- ◆ Promote and inform your customers of what you are doing to reduce your wastes.
- ◆ Have customers return film envelopes for recycling.
- ◆ Collect plastic film containers, single-use cameras and other plastic and metal materials for recycling.
- ◆ Only give out bags upon request.
- ◆ Turn down the thermostat during off hours.
- ◆ Explore new packaging designs that eliminate unnecessary waste (e.g. create an envelope which can be used to send undeveloped film for processing and can hold developed pictures).

---

## IN THE DARK ROOM

---

- ◆ Store materials according to the instructions on the label. Since many chemicals used in photo developing are light and temperature-sensitive, proper storage will increase the shelf life of the product and reduce unnecessary waste.
- ◆ Send spoiled photographic paper and film to a company which can recover the silver.
- ◆ Recycle film magazines and cartridges whenever possible. Many of the large manufacturers are now accepting back these materials for recycling.
- ◆ Test materials whose expiry dates have passed. Some may still be useable.
- ◆ Attempt to extend the life of chemicals used in the developing procedures. For example, regenerate or reuse fixing solution.
- ◆ Segregate all wastes to prevent contamination and increase their potential for reuse or recycling.
- ◆ Minimize the carry-over of one chemical solution to the next, thereby increasing the bath lifespan. This will also increase the potential recyclability of the material.
- ◆ Decrease the amount of wastewater generated. One possible way to accomplish this is to use a countercurrent washing system.
- ◆ Centre tubes from rolls of print paper can be used as mailing or poster tubes, or can be donated to schools or charitable organizations for reuse in activities such as "craft" making.
- ◆ Send spent chemicals to a recycling/recovery firm.
- ◆ Use drip trays underneath baths to reduce chemical loss.
- ◆ Lease or install a silver recovery cartridge or electrolytic system to reduce silver concentrations in fixer solution.

---

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

---

*Ministry of the Environment  
Public Information Centre*  
1-800-565-4923  
[picemail@ene.gov.on.ca](mailto:picemail@ene.gov.on.ca)  
[www.ene.gov.on.ca/pic.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/pic.htm)

*Photo Marketing  
Association International*  
[www.pmai.org](http://www.pmai.org)

*Ontario Waste Management  
Association (OWMA)*  
905-791-9500  
[mgoulding@owma.org](mailto:mgoulding@owma.org)  
[www.owma.org](http://www.owma.org)

*Association of Municipal  
Recycling Coordinators (AMRC)*  
519-823-1990  
[amrc@amrc.ca](mailto:amrc@amrc.ca)  
[www.amrc.ca](http://www.amrc.ca)

*Your Local Municipality*

*This publication is part of a series of Waste Reduction Fact sheets that are available from your local municipality. Additional Fact Sheets can be obtained on a variety of industrial, commercial and institutional sectors (automotive, commercial printing, etc.), and various business operations (e.g. offices, cafeterias and lunch rooms, etc.). Please contact your local municipality for more information.*