

Excerpt from AIIM TR4-1989 Silver Recovery Techniques:

The recovery of silver from scrap film and spent photographic processing solutions is vital to conserving this valuable natural resource as well for monetary reasons. Another reason to recover silver is to meet environmental regulations. Silver is classified as a “priority pollutant” and toxic metal by environmental agencies around the world.

Below are two of the most common recovery techniques used in micrographics along with further explanation and discussion.

Metallic Replacement



Electrolytic Plating



Electrolytic Plating

When large amounts of film are being processed, an electrolytic silver-recovery system may be more economical. With this method, silver is removed from fixing baths by passing controlled direct current between a cathode and an anode hung in the solution. Silver is deposited on the cathode in the form of nearly pure silver plate. The cathodes are removed periodically, and the silver is stripped. This method is relatively clean, may allow reuse of the fixing bath, and yields silver having a high degree of purity.



There are many types, models, and manufacturers of silver recovery units available.

ARS Services- <http://www.arsservicesllc.com>

CPAC Equipment- <http://www.cpacequipment.com>

**EPM is neither recommending against or for any particular vendor*