

Photographic Chemicals

Many chemicals used in photographic processing have some degree of toxicity and/or level of caustic reaction. *Treat them all with respect.*

If you have concerns about a certain chemical then check its MSDS/SDS.

All chemicals should be clearly marked when they are stored. Should there be an accident or problem, the identity of the chemical is easily determined.

All recycled bottles used for storing chemicals must have their original labels removed! There cannot be any ambiguity about the contents.

All work areas where chemicals are used must be thoroughly cleaned up after use. Chemical pollution or poisoning can occur. Caustic chemicals can permanently damage surfaces.

Wear chemically resistant (nitrile) gloves when handling chemicals. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Always gently pour chemicals from one container to another. This reduces the chance of splashing.

Antidotes For Poisons

The following are simple first aid measures only.

In severe cases, call ambulance and seek medical advice.

Caustic chemicals on the skin

Use something such as kitchen paper or a cloth to brush off or soak up any chemicals that remain on the skin (but do not burn yourself) then flood the area with water. The more water the better.

Caustic chemicals to the eyes

Much the same as above and get the person to casualty immediately – call an ambulance

Acids Swallowed – eg Fixer, Stop bath, dilute hydrochloric acid

Alkaline drinks, i.e. sodium bicarbonate, magnesium carbonate, or a suspension of magnesium oxide. If these are not readily available, then quantities of warm water to induce vomiting. Milk and oil may also be used.

Dilute Acid in Eyes

Wash with lots of warm water or with very dilute sodium bicarbonate solution.

Alkalies swallowed– eg developer, dilute sodium hydroxide

Drink very diluted vinegar, citric acid or apple juice. Suck a piece of ice. Milk or oil may be drunk.

Dilute Alkalies in Eyes

Wash with lots of water or very dilute boric (boracic) acid.

Gas Poisoning

Fresh air; remove constricting clothing; CPR – call ambulance

Respiratory reaction to chemicals

Fresh air. Inhaler if victim has one that has been prescribed. Call ambulance if severe.