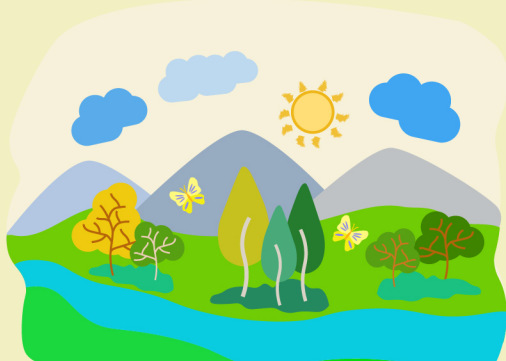


Top 6 Footprint-Reducing Tips

1. Use eco-friendly film developers
2. Non-hardening neutral fixers reduce water waste
3. Store and recycle used fixer at a local facility
4. Use the Ilford rinse method to save water
5. Store chems in air-tight bottles to reduce spoilage
6. Bulk roll 35mm film to reduce packaging waste



Top Eco-Friendly Film Developers:

These are the most environmentally-friendly film developers that are designed to be safe for septic systems and municipal waste.

Caffenol: A home-made, high contrast developer using instant coffee, Vitamin C, and washing soda. Caffeic Acid is the primary developer in the solution, while Vitamin C reduces fogging and increases sharpness. Developer solutions can also be made with garden vegetables like Basil, though they are known to be a less-reliable source of phenols.

Eco-Pro Ascorbic Acid developer: A phenidone/Vitamin C based developer made by Legacy Pro. This low-contrast, fine-grain powdered developer is a clone of eco-friendly Xtol, but with fewer preservatives in the powdered solution. Phenidone is an almost non-toxic developer compound. Especially in the low quantities needed to develop film.

Flic Film Black, White, & Green: A phenidone/Vitamin C developer in a long-lasting viscous liquid format. Black, White, & Green creates low-contrast negatives with extended tonal ranges and medium grains. Perfect for pushing and pulling film without eco-damaging chemical formulas.

Ilford Rinse Method

The Ilford Rinse Method is the best way to give film an archival wash while saving water when using a non-hardening fixer. Washing usually requires leaving film in running water for 15-20 minutes to remove all of the fixer, which can waste a tremendous amount of water.

The Ilford Rinse Method requires filling and emptying the tank just three times. After filling the tank once, invert the tank 5 times and dump out the water. Fill the tank again and invert 10 times. Fill the tank once more and complete 20 inversions, and then the fixer will be completely removed!

Finally, use a wetting agent (such as Ilfotol) in distilled water to ensure the film dries quickly and evenly.



Further reading:

7 Ways to Reduce
your Eco-Impact

Eco-Friendly Film
Developers

6 Film Developers
Compared