

Recycling Photochemical Containers

Preparing Kodak Polychrome Graphics Photochemical Containers For Recycling

You can help minimize solid waste by participating in your local community recycling program. The following information will help you in preparing empty plastic or glass Kodak Polychrome Graphics photochemical containers for recycling in your local recycling program:

1. Follow recommendations for personal protection and ventilation, as described in the product Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), while rinsing the empty container.
2. Empty the container of all residual product, and dispose of the residue in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations.
3. To minimize splattering and respiratory exposure, slowly rinse caps and empty containers with cold water. In some instances, the chemical residue may react with water if present in high concentrations. Dispose of the rinsate (rinse water) in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations.
4. Repeat the rinsing of the containers two more times; you can use warm water (approximately 100°F) for the final rinse to increase the solubility of any remaining chemicals.
5. Once you no longer need the caps, rinse and discard them. Do not place them in the recycling container.
6. If the containers have visible stains or residue after triple rinsing, do not recycle them. Dispose of them in accordance with local regulations.
7. If the rinsed container is plastic, slit it so it cannot be used again and place it into your recycling collection container.

Answers to some frequently asked questions about recycling Kodak Polychrome Graphics photochemical containers.

1. Does Kodak Polychrome Graphics accept back the empty plastic or glass photochemical containers?

Kodak Polychrome Graphics does not accept back the empty plastic or glass photochemical containers. Local recyclers are best equipped to recycle these containers.

2. What type of plastic are the containers made from?

Most of the plastic Kodak Polychrome Graphics photochemical containers are manufactured from high density polyethylene, the Society of Plastics Industry (SPI) code number 2 or low density polyethylene, SPI code number 4. In addition, some Kodak Polychrome Graphics plastic containers are made of other resins and are coded number 7 to symbolize layered multi-material plastics.

3. What is an SPI code and where will I find it?

An SPI code is a way to identify what type of plastic the container is made from. The number will be located on the bottom of the chemical bottle, inside the chasing arrows (mobius loop). For Cubitainers, the SPI code will be located near the neck of the container.

4. What SPI code numbers will the recycler accept?

You will need to contact your local recycler for the information on what recyclable plastics they accept. Each recycler may have different market outlets for the plastics, which determine what recyclables they can collect.

5. How do I contact my local recycler?

Call your local or state recycling coordinator, municipal waste collection agency, or your local waste disposal company. If these agencies cannot assist you, you can call the American Plastics Council (APC) at 1-800-243-5790 for information on plastic recyclers in your area.

6. What information will I have to provide to the recycler when inquiring about recycling my containers?

It would be helpful for the recycler if you provided a sample of the rinsed containers that you would like to recycle; a count of how many containers you generate per week, month, or year; the Material Safety Data Sheets for the photochemical product that was sold in the original container; and a copy of this EnviroBulletin.

You may be asked to sign a form stating you will make sure the containers have been properly rinsed before sending them to the recycler.

7. Why do some local recyclers not accept the containers?

Some recyclers may not understand the nature of the contents of the containers. Most Kodak Polychrome Graphics photographic chemicals are water-soluble. Properly rinsed photochemical containers with no visible stains or residue are expected to pose no greater health concerns for customers or recyclers than properly rinsed household chemical containers.

Some recyclers may only be able to process specific sizes of containers, types of materials (plastic and glass), and colors of glass at their facility. As a result, they may not be able to accept every container that you would like to recycle.

8. Can I recycle the 15-, 30-, and 55-gallon KODAK plastic drums that my photographic chemicals are shipped in?

Yes, this is possible provided you have located a recycler of such drums in your area. However, these drums are part of the Kodak Returnable Chemical Drum Program and can be sent to the Kodak-approved drum reconditioner, then back to Kodak for reuse. If you need further information about the Kodak Returnable Chemical Drum Program, call Kodak Polychrome Graphics' EnviroServices Hotline at 1-877-KPGraphics, ext. 511.

9. Whom may I contact at Kodak Polychrome Graphics for additional information about the recycling of Kodak Polychrome Graphics photochemical containers?

For additional information, you may contact the Kodak Polychrome Graphics EnviroServices Hotline at 1-877-KPGraphics, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) or by Email at pep@kpgraphics.com.

More Information

This EnviroBulletin is part of Kodak Polychrome Graphics Printer's EnviroServices Program (PEP). This consists of a comprehensive range of environmental and safety products and services specially designed to provide printers with cost effective solutions. For more information, please contact the KPG Environmental, Health & Safety Department at (877) KPGraphics or by Email at PEP@KPGraphics.com.

Notice to User:

This publication is meant to assist others with their compliance programs. However, this is not a comprehensive treatment of the issues. We cannot identify all possible situations and ultimately it is the reader's obligation to decide on the appropriateness of this information to his/her operation.

The recycling information in this publication applies to empty Kodak Polychrome Graphics plastic or glass containers used for Kodak Polychrome Graphics photochemical products *only* and is not intended for containers that were reused for other purposes.