

Test 15: Condition of cassettes and screens

The **condition** of the cassettes and screens must be checked 12 monthly.

PURPOSE (*Source CRCPD Publication 01-6*)

The cassettes and screens clean, free from blemishes.

To provide cassettes and intensifying screens that are free from dirt or damage.

FREQUENCY: Monthly.

Clean external surfaces with soap and water- not dripping with water.

Make sure cassettes are marked with a unique number.

SCREEN CLEANING REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

- Screen cleaner (as recommended by manufacturer)
- Lint-free gauze pad or cloth, or camel's hair brush.
- Canned air* (available from photographic supply store)

*Assure that the canned air used to clean the screens is "clean" air. If the air contains moisture, oil, or other contaminants, you may be introducing artefacts or damaging the screen.

PROCEDURE:

1. Visually inspect the condition of the intensifying screen. Look for marks under bright light.
Check that the screen / cassette are marked with the same number.
2. Dust the screen with the camel's hair brush and canned air.*
3. If foreign material (e.g., dirt, developer solution) cannot be readily removed with the camel's hair brush, use liquid screen cleaner.
Check the expiry date if the cleaner.
4. Moisten a lint free gauze swab with the cleaning agent. Rub cleaner softly over entire surface in figure 8 motion. Dry with a second cellulose cloth.
4. After cleaning with manufacturer approved cleaners, screens should be allowed to air-dry, standing vertically, before returning the cassette to use – 30 minutes!
5. Record results on the Quarterly QC Checklist.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

If the screen shows signs of cracking, fading, or discoloration, it should be evaluated for replacement.

Note: Lack of humidity in the darkroom can lead to excessive dust in the cassettes and static artefacts on film. To remedy this situation, install a **humidifier** in the darkroom.

