

### *Kirkhouse Trust Policy:*

The Kirkhouse Trust makes no recommendation for disposal of Ethidium Bromide. You should follow the regulations that pertain to your institution.

However, we do recommend that you use low concentrations, 0.5 µg/mL or lower, of EtBr for staining gels. There are two reasons for this. First, higher levels will introduce high background in the gel photograph. Second, if there is a hazard, the lower the concentration, the lower the risk. So we recommend staining in 0.1 µg/mL<sup>1</sup> for 1 hour or longer, or staining in 0.5 µg/mL<sup>2</sup> for 15 to 30 min and de-staining, if necessary, for 30 min.

Also see the video: 'The Kirkhouse Trust Horizontal Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis System' parts 1 and 2.

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#### *Notes:*

<sup>1</sup> 0.1 µg/mL is a 1:100,000 dilution in TBE of 10 mg/mL EtBr stock (e.g. 0.1 µL in 10 mL).

<sup>2</sup> 0.5 µg/mL is a 1:20,000 dilution (e.g. 0.5 µL in 10 mL).

### *What others say:*

If no regulation is in place in your institute, you may wish to see what others recommend. Practices vary widely:

1. Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania recommend that levels below 10 µg/mL can be disposed of without special precautions.  
<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/chemwaste/etbr.html#gel>  
<http://www.ehrs.upenn.edu/resources/waste/chem/ebpolicy.html>
2. The University of Birmingham recommends that levels below 1.0 µg/mL can be disposed of without special precautions.  
<http://www.biosciences.bham.ac.uk/safety/Disposal%20of%20Ethidium%20Bromide%20Waste%200905.doc>
3. Columbia University recommends decontamination treatments for solid waste and for solution concentrations above 0.5 µg/mL  
<http://ehs.columbia.edu/etbr.html>
4. Here is a blog with multiple opinions:  
<http://rrresearch.blogspot.com/2006/10/heresy-about-ethidium-bromide.html>