

When temperatures vary widely from solution to solution during film processing, the film grain can become large and coarse. When the temperature variation is extreme, it can cause **reticulation**—a noticeable cracking of the emulsion. Reticulation is almost always considered a problem but the “look” it provides can be effective with certain images. Follow these directions and experiment.

1. *Load your exposed film onto reels in darkness and drop the reels in the processing tank.*
2. *Pour hot water in the tank for a prewet bath. The water should be at least 100°F—over even hotter—for significant reticulation effects.*
3. *Pour out the water from the tank and pour in the film developer at a normal temperature (68–72°F or so).*
4. *Pour out the developer from the tank and pour in cold stop bath, 40° or colder.*
5. *Continue the standard film processing steps: fixer, first wash, fixer remover, final wash, and wetting agent, alternating hot and cold temperatures from bath to bath. In particular, the temperature of running water can be varied during the wash baths.*

When you enlarge the resulting negatives, the surface cracks will show. One problem with reticulation is that it's somewhat high risk. If you don't like the results, you have basically ruined the film.