

AMALGAM BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Overall Goals: Reduce discharges of mercury from dental offices to help protect the environment.

Required Practice	Not Applicable	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not rinse amalgam-containing traps, filters or containers in the sink.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not place amalgam, elemental mercury, broken or unusable amalgam capsules, extracted teeth with amalgam, chairside traps, or vacuum system screens/filters with medical "red-bag" waste or regular solid waste.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collect and store dry dental amalgam waste in a designated, airtight container. Amalgam, which is designated for recycling, should be labeled "Amalgam Waste."
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recycle, or manage as hazardous waste, amalgam, broken or unusable amalgam capsules, extracted teeth with amalgam, amalgam-containing waste from traps and filters. Check with your amalgam recycler for any additional requirements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use various sizes of pre-measured amalgam capsules to provide better mixing and less waste. The use of bulk mercury is prohibited.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use small plastic containers in each operatory to collect non-contact amalgam scrap for recycling. Do not add water or waste fixer.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	During amalgam restoration procedures, maximize use of the high-speed suction (vacuum) and rubber dams. Doing so captures more waste amalgam.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Place extracted teeth with amalgam fillings into the Amalgam Waste recycling container. Ask your amalgam recycler/hauler if they prefer them to be disinfected first.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a licensed contractor pick up amalgam wastes for recycling, or use an appropriate mail-back service or drop-off location. Receipts, certificates of recycle, manifests, or other documentation of proper disposal must be maintained for a minimum of 3 years.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain the amalgam separator and ensure collection container is emptied or changed out when full or as recommended by manufacturer. Amalgam separator waste must also be disposed as hazardous waste or recycled through a licensed hauler or mail-back service. Maintain records of separator inspection, maintenance, and waste recycling.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dental unit water lines, chair-side traps, and vacuum lines that discharge amalgam process wastewater to a sanitary sewer must not be cleaned with oxidizing or acidic cleaners, including but not limited to bleach, chlorine, iodine and peroxide that have a pH lower than 6 or greater than 8. Such cleaners may mobilize legacy mercury and amalgam in the system. [40CFR441.30(b)(2)]
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photographic lead foils and fixer with silver should be sent to a recycler, or disposed of as hazardous waste.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Glutaraldehyde-based sterilizer solutions should be disposed of as hazardous waste. Glutaraldehyde-based sterilizers may only be disposed of in the sink <i>if they are neutralized first</i> . A number of products exist on the market to neutralize glutaraldehyde.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Train staff annually in proper amalgam, photographic silver, lead foil, and chemical waste management practices. Also train new staff when hired. Maintain documentation of training.