



Dental Best Management Practices

Amalgam Wastes

General

- ✓ All elemental mercury (free, bulk, or raw mercury) has been removed from the premises and sent for recycling.
- ✓ The Dental Practice recycles and intends to continue recycling all amalgam waste from its location, including amalgam from the separator(s), any amalgam scrap from screens, traps, or filters, and any scrap amalgam not fully used in dental procedures.
- ✓ Instructions provided by the amalgam recycler are followed for the packaging, labeling, storage, disinfection (if required), and pickup or shipping of amalgam waste.
- ✓ These practices are followed:
 - Amalgam is not placed in a sharps container.
 - Amalgam is not placed in a red biohazard bag.
 - Amalgam is not discarded in the regular trash.
 - Amalgam is not disposed down the drain.
 - Excess amalgam is not removed from an amalgam well using a high-speed suction (vacuum) line.
 - Extracted teeth with amalgam restorations are not placed in a red biohazard bag but are recycled with other amalgam wastes in a disinfectant solution (such as glutaraldehyde or formalin), or as directed by the recycler.
 - Used amalgam capsules are not placed in the regular trash but are recycled with other amalgam wastes.

Disposable Chairside Traps

- ✓ Where disposable chairside traps are used, traps are placed into a container for recycling as directed by the recycler.

Reusable Chairside Traps

- ✓ Where reusable traps are used, all visible amalgam is removed from reusable traps by tapping the contents into a container for recycling as directed by the recycler.
- ✓ Reusable traps are not rinsed under running water (as this could result in amalgam being discharged down the drain).

Vacuum Pump Filters: Vacuum pump filters are only present on wet seal pumps that use water.

- ✓ Filters are changed according to the vacuum pump manufacturer's recommended schedule and recycled as directed by the recycler.

Line Cleaners

- ✓ Only pH neutral, non-bleach, non-chlorine-containing suction line cleaners are used.
- ✓ Lines are cleaned daily on chairs where restorative dentistry is performed and as necessary or according to the vacuum pump manufacturer's recommendations on other chairs.

Amalgam Separators

- ✓ The Dental Practice has installed an amalgam separator to service all of its dental chairs where amalgam is placed or removed. (except for orthodontists, periodontists, and oral and maxillofacial surgeons.)
- ✓ The Dental Practice maintains and operates its amalgam separator(s) according to the manufacturer's instructions (i.e., necessary cleanings, cartridge changes, and other required servicing are performed on schedule).
- ✓ Visual inspections of the separator(s) are conducted at least weekly and an inspection log is maintained.
- ✓ Records related to the amalgam separator(s) (e.g., installation information, inspection logs, and amalgam shipping records) are maintained for at least three years.

Conditionally Exempt Hazardous Wastes

Used X-Ray Fixer Solution

- ✓ Used x-ray fixer solution is:
 - Sent to a silver recovery facility that is authorized to accept and recycle this waste in the receiving state; or
 - Sent off-site for recycling using a permitted hazardous waste transporter; or
 - Reclaimed on-site using a silver recovery unit (see Note below); or
 - Recycled through a municipal hazardous waste collection program.

Lead Foils, Shields, and Aprons

- ✓ Lead foils, shields, and aprons are sent for recycling and are not disposed of in the regular trash or red biohazard bags.

Staff Training/Recordkeeping

- ✓ Facility staff is informed about procedures for handling waste amalgam, and at least one employee is familiar with procedures for operating and maintaining the installed amalgam separator.
- ✓ Records are kept to document that the Dental Best Management Practices are met.