

DENTAL AMALGAM WASTE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Compliance with the EPA final rule on amalgam separators is required.

Dental best management practices for amalgam waste handling and disposal include use of chair-side traps, use of amalgam separators, regular inspection and cleaning of traps, and use of appropriate commercial waste service to recycle and/or dispose of collected amalgam.

<i>Do</i>	<i>Don't</i>
<i>Do</i> use precapsulated alloys and stock a variety of capsule sizes.	<i>Don't</i> use bulk mercury.
<i>Do</i> recycle used disposable amalgam capsules.	<i>Don't</i> put used disposable amalgam capsules in biohazard containers.
<i>Do</i> salvage, store, and recycle non-contact (scrap) amalgam	<i>Don't</i> put non-contact amalgam waste in biohazard containers, infectious waste containers (red bags), or regular garbage.
<i>Do</i> salvage (contact) amalgam pieces from restorations after removal and recycle their contents.	<i>Don't</i> put contact amalgam waste in biohazard containers, infectious waste containers (red bags), or regular garbage.
<i>Do</i> use chair-side traps, vacuum pump filters, and amalgam separators to retain amalgam and recycle their contents.	<i>Don't</i> rinse devices containing amalgam over drains or sinks. Amalgam process wastewater should not be discharged to the POTW.
<i>Do</i> recycle teeth that contain amalgam restorations (Note: Ask your recycler whether extracted teeth with amalgam restorations require disinfection).	<i>Don't</i> dispose of extracted teeth that contain amalgam restorations in biohazard containers, infectious waste containers (red bags), sharps containers, or regular garbage.
<i>Do</i> manage amalgam waste through recycling.	<i>Don't</i> flush amalgam waste down the drain or toilet. Amalgam process wastewater should not be discharged to the POTW.
<i>Do</i> use line cleaners that minimize dissolution of amalgam.	<i>Don't</i> use bleach or chlorine-containing cleaners to flush wastewater lines.

