

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

AMALGAM WASTE



- Follow recycler or hauler instructions, if any, for disinfection of waste and separation of contact and non-contact amalgam.
 - Separate excess contact dental amalgam that is retrieved during placement with gauze and place in an appropriate container.
 - Use chairside traps to capture dental amalgam.
 - Change, or clean, chairside traps frequently. Flush the vacuum system before changing the chairside trap.
 - Change vacuum pump filters and screens at least monthly or as directed by the manufacturer.
 - Check the p-trap under your sink for the presence of any amalgam-containing waste.
 - Eliminate all use of bulk elemental mercury and use only precapsulated dental amalgam for amalgam restorations.
 - Limit the amount of amalgam triturated to the closest amount needed for the restoration. Keep a variety of amalgam capsule sizes on hand to ensure that almost all triturated amalgam is used.
 - Train staff who handle or may handle mercury-containing material in its proper use and disposal.
 - Consider the use of amalgam removal technologies, such as sedimentation systems or amalgam separators, if you practice in an area where mercury in wastewater discharges is a serious concern.
 - Eliminate use of bleach for cleaning water lines.
- Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) may choose to make some BMPs mandatory.*

MANDATORY PER CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE 22

- Do not rinse amalgam-containing traps, filters, or containers in the sink.
- Do not place amalgam, elemental mercury, broken or unusable amalgam capsules, extracted teeth with amalgam, or amalgam-containing traps and filters with medical waste or regular solid waste.
- Recycle, or manage as hazardous waste, amalgam, elemental mercury, broken or unusable amalgam capsules, extracted teeth with amalgam, amalgam-containing waste from traps and filters.
- Keep amalgam waste in an air-tight container.