

NJDEP Best Management Practices for Dental Facilities

Adopted under N.J.A.C. 7:14A-21.12(d) and 40 CFR 441.30(b)

Waste amalgam including, but not limited to, dental amalgam from chair-side traps, screens, vacuum pump filters, dental tools, cuspidors, or collection devices, **must not be discharged to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)**. To comply with these requirements

DO:

- ⊕ Use mercury-free material when appropriate;
- ⊕ Train staff in the proper handling, management, and disposal of mercury containing material;
- ⊕ Use pre-capsulated alloys only;
- ⊕ Recycle used disposable capsules containing amalgam;
- ⊕ Install chair-side amalgam traps in both the vacuum system and cuspidor of each operatory where restoration work is done;
- ⊕ Maintain and operate the amalgam separators according to its manufacturer's specifications;
- ⊕ Change and clean chair-side amalgam traps frequently;
- ⊕ Clean water lines, chair-side traps, and vacuum lines that discharge amalgam process wastewater using only non-oxidizing or non-acidic cleaners that have a pH between 6 and 8;
- ⊕ Appropriately disinfect and store amalgam pieces from removal and restoration with amalgam waste;
- ⊕ Store amalgam waste in airtight containers;
- ⊕ Have a licensed recycling contractor, mail-in service or hazardous waste hauler remove amalgam waste;
- ⊕ Recycle all amalgam waste containing mercury; and
- ⊕ Keep records to document that the BMP requirements are being met.

DON'T:

- ⊗ Use bulk elemental mercury;
- ⊗ Flush amalgam waste down the drain;
- ⊗ Rinse traps or vacuum pump filters over drains or in the sinks not connected to an amalgam separator, or other collection device;
- ⊗ Clean dental unit water lines, chair-side traps, and vacuum lines that discharge amalgam process wastewater with oxidizing or acidic cleaners, including but not limited to bleach, chlorine, iodine and per-oxide that have a pH lower than 6 or greater than 8.
- ⊗ Throw or place the disposable trap, sludge from reusable trap, or vacuum pump filter or contents with regular garbage;
- ⊗ Throw or place the disposable trap, sludge from reusable trap, or vacuum pump filter or contents into sharps containers or biohazard bag.