



## Keep Drains Amalgam Free

Mercury-containing wastes can threaten our environment. Washed down the drain or otherwise improperly disposed of, mercury can find its way into our drinking water sources and the environment. The City of Tracy is working to reduce mercury discharges to the Old River and the dental community can help.

- ✓ Do install an amalgam separator that complies with 2008 ISO 11143 to meet a removal efficiency of no less than 99%, and maintain it properly
- ✓ Do use precapsulated alloys in a variety of sizes
- ✓ Do store mercury-containing wastes in airtight containers
- ✓ Do collect all amalgam waste and recycle as universal waste
- ✓ Do keep waste streams segregated to optimize recycling and disposal options
- ✓ Do use chair-side traps and vacuum pump filters, and recycle properly
- ✓ Do train staff on proper handling and disposal of mercury-containing waste

- ✗ Don't rinse traps and screens in the sink
- ✗ Don't flush amalgam waste down the drain or toilet
- ✗ Don't put mercury-containing waste in medical waste containers (red bags)
- ✗ Don't place other materials in your mercury-containing waste containers
- ✗ Don't use bleach or chlorine-containing line cleaners

For more information:

Visit US Environmental Protection Agency:  
<http://www2.epa.gov/mercury/mercury-dental-amalgam>

For helpful resources, please contact the  
City of Tracy:

(209) 831-4411

## Ask Your Recycler ...

- What kind of amalgam waste do you accept?
- Do your services include pick up of amalgam waste from dental offices? If not, can amalgam waste be shipped to you?
- Do you provide packaging for storage, pick up or shipping of amalgam waste?
- If packaging is not provided, how should the waste be packaged?
- What types of waste can be packaged together?
- Do you accept whole filters from the vacuum pump for recycling?
- Is disinfection required for amalgam waste?
- How much do your services cost?
- Do you pay for clean non-contact amalgam (scrap)?
- Do you accept extracted teeth with amalgam restorations?
- Does your company have an EPA or applicable state license?
- Does the company use the proper forms required by the EPA and state agencies?
- Do your procedures comply with ANSI/ADA Specification 109: Procedures for Storing Dental Amalgam Waste and Requirements for Amalgam Waste Storage/Shipment Containers?<sup>2</sup>

## Best Management Practices for Amalgam Waste

DO	DON'T
<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, infectious waste containers (red bags) or regular garbage
<i>Do</i> salvage, store and recycle non-contact amalgam (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 the amalgam waste	<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
<i>Do</i> recycle teeth that contain amalgam restorations. (Note: Ask your recycler whether or not 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 as much as possible	<i>Don't</i> flush amalgam waste down the drain or toilet
<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

<sup>1</sup>International Standards Organization 11143:1999. Dental Equipment – Amalgam Separators.

<sup>2</sup>American Dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs. American National Standard/American Dental Association Specification No. 109. Procedures for storing dental amalgam waste and requirements for amalgam waste storage/shipment containers, 2006.