

DENTAL FACILITY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) AND AMALGAM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

MAINTAINING AMALGAM SEPARATORS

Disposable or Reusable Chair-side Traps



- Open the chair-side unit to expose the trap.
- Remove the disposable trap/contents of the reusable trap and place it directly into a wide-mouthed, airtight and labeled container.
- Make sure the container lid is well sealed.
- When the container is full, send it to a recycler.

Vacuum Pump Filters



- Change the filter following the recommended schedule.
- Seal the filter and place the sealed container in the original shipping box. Ship the filter box to the recycler.

REQUIRED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Obtain Amalgam Separator(s)

The amalgam removal device must meet the requirements in 40 CFR 441.30 (a)(1) or (2) and be sized to accommodate the maximum discharge rate of amalgam process wastewater.

Avoid Acidic or Basic Cleaners

Dental unit water lines, chair-side traps, and lines that discharge amalgam process wastewater must not be cleaned with oxidizing or acidic cleaners that have a pH lower than 6 or greater than 8.

Inspect and Replace Regularly

Amalgam separator(s) must be inspected monthly in accordance with the manufacturer's operating manual and replaced when the retaining unit has reached the maximum level, or according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Repair as Needed

If not functioning properly, in no later than 10 business days after the malfunction is discovered, the amalgam separator must be repaired in a manner consistent with manufacturer instructions or replaced with a unit that meets requirements.

RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Dental Dischargers must maintain and make available for inspection the following records for a minimum of three years:

- The date, person(s) conducting the inspection, results of each inspection of the amalgam separator(s) or equivalent device(s), and a summary of follow-up actions, if needed.
- Receipts, including the dates that collected dental amalgam is picked up and the name of the permitted or licensed treatment, storage, or disposal facility.
- Amalgam separator expiration and replacement dates.
- Records of any repair or replacement of an amalgam separator or equivalent device (e.g., the date, person(s) making the repair or replacement, and a description of the repair or replacement, including make and model).
- The manufacturer's operating manual for the current device(s).
- A copy of the One-Time Compliance Report.

OTHER ENFORCEABLE BMPs

- As determined by the dental practice, amalgam substitutes should be used to minimize mercury and silver usage in dental offices.
- If any elemental or free mercury is used or present in the dental office, a mercury spill kit shall be maintained on-site. All technical/medical staff should be trained on spill clean-up response procedures for mercury.
- Empty amalgam capsules (after mixing amalgam), which contain no visible amalgam, may be disposed of as solid waste in the garbage or trash.
- If scrap amalgam is stored under water or other liquid, the liquid shall not be disposed of down a drain or in the trash, but instead must be disposed of through an amalgam recycler or hazardous waste hauler.
- Salvage and store all contact and non-contact scrap amalgam in separate and tightly closed containers that are appropriately labeled.
- All scrap amalgam shall be processed through an amalgam recycler, a certified hazardous waste transporter, or taken to a municipal hazardous waste collection program. Scrap amalgam shall not be disposed of in the trash or into sinks or drains.

THE ONE-TIME COMPLIANCE REPORT

- For new dental facilities and for existing dental facilities, after there is a transfer of ownership, a One-Time Compliance Report must be submitted, no later than 90 days after opening or after transfer of ownership.
- These links lead to the One-Time Compliance Report form for each of the service areas. Choose one of the forms below that corresponds to your facility's service area:
 - » Spokane County: <https://www.wsda.org/docs/librariesprovider52/default-document-library/spokane-county-form.pdf?sfvrsn=0>
 - » The City of Spokane: <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/publicworks/wastewater/business/dental-wastewater/one-time-compliance-report-form.pdf>
 - » The City of Airway Heights:

CONTACT US



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