

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

