

# MANDATORY AMALGAM BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)

## For Minimization of Mercury in Wastewater Discharges from Dental Practices

See <http://sfenvironment.org/managing-toxic-products-businesses> for useful resources, such as hazardous waste haulers

### EPA Required BMP's:

- 1) 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 (e.g., municipal sewer system).
- 2) Chair side traps, dental water lines, and vacuum lines that discharge amalgam process wastewater to a publicly owned treatment works, must not be cleaned using oxidizing or acidic cleansers such as, chlorine, bleach, peroxide and iodine, that have pH levels lower than 6 or greater than 8.

### City of San Francisco Required BMP's:

- 1) Eliminate all use of bulk elemental Mercury.
- 2) Install plastic disposable chair side amalgam traps in both the vacuum system and cuspidor of each operatory where restoration work is done. Never rinse these traps in the sink.
- 3) Routinely Inspect the amalgam separator, per the manufacturer's operating manual. Maintain a log for all inspections. Change vacuum pump filters and screens at least once per month or as directed by the manufacturer. Seal the vacuum screen and any water in its plastic container, and store it in an airtight container with other amalgam waste.
- 4) Properly discard amalgam waste, recycling is the preferred method for discarding amalgam waste. For recycling or disposal as a hazardous waste, have a licensed recycling contractor or hazardous waste hauler remove your amalgam waste, or use a mail-in-service. Obtain and maintain documentation for all amalgam recycling and disposal.
- 5) Maintain a written or computerized log of amalgam waste that you generate, and of amalgam waste that you remove from your vacuum system or plumbing. In addition, obtain and maintain all receipts, manifests, and documents related to amalgam waste disposal.
- 6) Train staff in the proper handling, management, and disposal of mercury-containing materials. Maintain a training log including name of instructor, date and personnel trained.
- 7) Maintain all Records, logs and receipts for a minimum of three years. Make them available upon request.



Amalgam waste must **NEVER** be placed in the regular trash, placed with infectious waste (red bags), or flushed down the drain. Amalgam-containing traps, filters, or screens must **NEVER** be rinsed over drains or sinks.