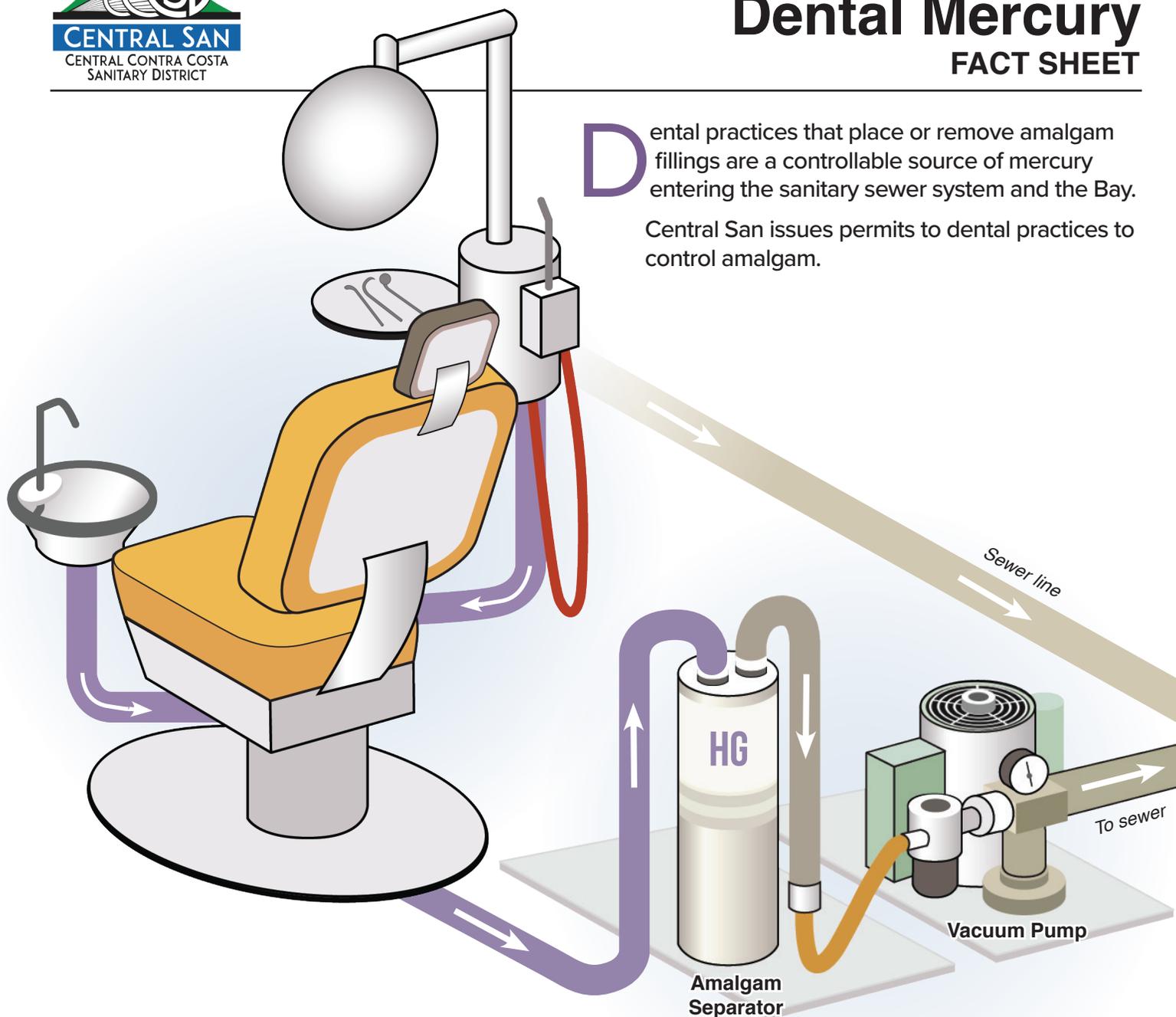


Dental Mercury FACT SHEET



Dental practices that place or remove amalgam fillings are a controllable source of mercury entering the sanitary sewer system and the Bay. Central San issues permits to dental practices to control amalgam.

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- Apply for a Dental Class III Wastewater Discharge Permit by completing the Dental Facility Compliance Report application.
- Install an ISO 11143 Certified Amalgam Separator. Approved separators meet the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard 11143 to remove at least 95% of amalgam.
- Implement Dental Mercury Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Submit the Dental Class III Wastewater Discharge Permit Periodic Compliance Reports (PCRs) on time.
- Keep disposal manifests and equipment maintenance records on site for five years. All records must be provided to Inspectors upon request.

INTERESTING FACTS

■ Thanks to the cooperation of the dental community, Central San achieved a remarkable 75% decrease in the amount of mercury discharging to Suisun Bay.

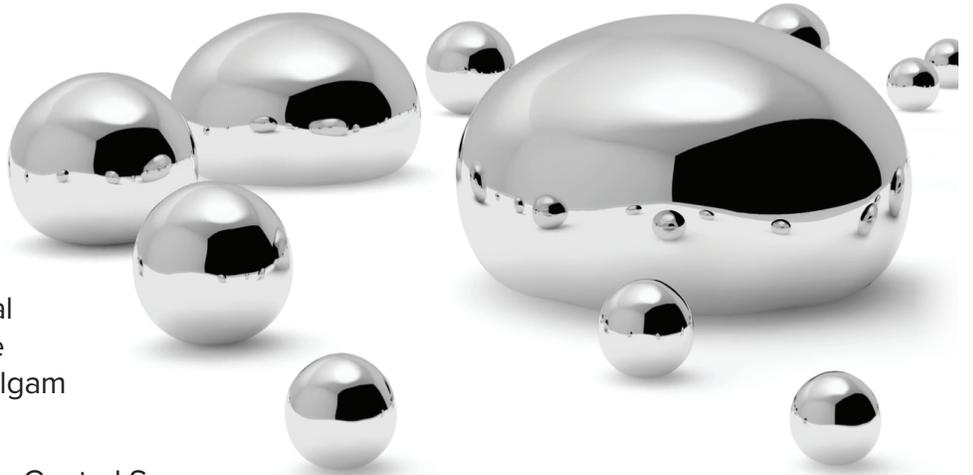
■ All permitted dentists in the Central San area who use, repair, or remove amalgam fillings are now using amalgam separators.

■ There are over 300 dentists in the Central San service area with a Dental Class III Wastewater Discharge Permit.

■ Sinks in the dental office are not connected to the amalgam separator. Do not rinse chairside traps, vacuum filters/screens, or amalgam waste in the sink.

■ Mercury is one of the most toxic substances known and one of our most successful mercury-reduction efforts has been the partnership with local dentists.

■ Mercury does not break down. Once it enters the environment from any source, it remains there and continues to do damage to the ecosystem. Forever.



■ Outdoor drains usually lead to the storm drain system and only rain is allowed to enter this system. Indoor drains such as toilets and sinks discharge to the sewer system and into the sewer treatment plant. Two different systems.

■ Significant fines can be levied for dumping or allowing the flow of pollutants into the storm drain system.

■ One drop of mercury could poison more than a million gallons of water.

■ Landfills are not designed for toxic pollutants like mercury. Disposal of mercury or mercury-containing wastes to the landfill can cause damage to the environment.

MOST COMMON VIOLATIONS

- Failure to maintain the amalgam separator and/or keep the receipts in the office.
- Sewer discharge of cold sterilization solution containing glutaraldehyde without neutralization.
- Rinsing chairside traps, vacuum filters/screens, or amalgam waste in the sink.
- Failure to submit the Periodic Compliance Report (PCR) on time.

ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

This fact sheet is one of a series created by the Environmental Compliance section to help businesses understand why and how to prevent water pollution. The contents are informational and summary in nature and do not constitute legal advice. For more information, call Central San's Environmental Compliance Section at (925) 229-7288 or visit centralsan.org