

CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA SANITARY DISTRICT DENTAL MERCURY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

To comply with the federal dental amalgam rule 40 CFR Part 441 and your practice's Dental Practice Class III Wastewater Discharge Permit the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be implemented.

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 (POTW).

(2) Dental unit water lines, chair-side traps, and vacuum lines that discharge amalgam process wastewater to a POTW must not be cleaned with oxidizing or acidic cleaners, including but not limited to bleach, chlorine, iodine and peroxide that have a pH lower than 6 or greater than 8.

Central San Required BMP's

1) Eliminate use of bulk elemental mercury. Use only pre-capsulated dental amalgam in the smallest appropriate size.

2) Properly manage chair-side traps. Change or empty chair-side traps frequently and dispose of with amalgam waste. Never rinse traps in the sink. If you have reusable traps, make sure any material used to clean the trap is disposed of with amalgam waste.

3) Properly maintain and dispose of filters and screens. Change vacuum pump filters and screens as needed or as directed by the manufacturer and store with amalgam waste. Seal and store filters and screens and their contents (including any water that may be present) with amalgam wastes.

4) Routinely inspect the amalgam separator. Inspect in accordance with the manufacturer's operating manual to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the separator and to confirm that all amalgam process wastewater is flowing through the amalgam retaining portion of the amalgam separator.

5) Maintain Amalgam Separator. Maintain records of amalgam separator inspections, maintenance, and repairs. When an amalgam separator is not functioning properly, it must be repaired consistent with manufacturer recommendations or replaced no more than 10 business days after the malfunction is discovered.

6) Store amalgam waste in airtight containers*. Follow recycler's or hauler's instructions for disinfection of waste and separation of contact and non-contact amalgam.

7) 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 for at least five years and available for inspection.

8) Train staff and document training. Train staff in proper handling, management, and disposal of amalgam and hazardous wastes. Maintain a training log and keep this log for at least five years. This log must be made available to your inspector.

*Amalgam waste includes contact amalgam such as extracted teeth containing amalgam restorations; non-contact or scrap amalgam; used, leaking, or unusable amalgam capsules, and amalgam captured by chair-side traps, vacuum pump screens, and other devices, including the traps, filters, and screens themselves.