



## San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR DENTAL OFFICES

Dental offices are required to follow Best Management Practices (BMPs). For more information regarding BMPs, amalgam separators, approved line cleaners, hazardous waste haulers and program requirements, please visit the website [www.sanjoseca.gov/dental](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/dental) or call (408) 945-3000.

- 1) **Eliminate use of bulk elemental mercury.** Bulk elemental mercury, also referred to as liquid or raw mercury, must be recycled or disposed of as hazardous waste. Use only precapsulated dental amalgam in the smallest appropriate size.
- 2) **Properly manage chairside traps.** Change or empty chairside traps frequently and store the trap and its contents 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) **Do not use peroxide-, iodide- or chlorine-based products to clean vacuum lines.** Do not use sodium hypochlorite (bleach) or other products containing peroxide, iodide or chlorine to cleanse vacuum lines, as these products have been shown to release the mercury in the amalgam. Line cleaners must have a pH between 6 and 8.
- 4) **Properly maintain and dispose of 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 waste in an airtight container.
- 5) **Maintain the vacuum system.** For dry vacuum turbine units, have a qualified maintenance technician, amalgam recycler or hazardous waste disposal service pump out and clean the air-water separator tank.
- 6) **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. Maintain records of amalgam waste generated or removed from the vacuum system or plumbing. In addition, obtain documentation for all amalgam recycling and disposal. Keep these records for at least five years and available for inspection.
- 7) **Maintain amalgam separator.** Maintain written or computerized 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 days after the malfunction is discovered.
- 8) **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. Do not disinfect amalgam waste using disinfectant solutions such as bleach; those containing oxidizers, peroxide or iodide; or with a pH below 6 or above 8.
- 9) **Properly dispose of fixer solution.** Have a licensed hauler remove spent fixer solution as hazardous waste.
- 10) **Train staff and document training.** Train staff in proper handling, management and disposal of mercury-containing material and fixer solutions. 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 chairside traps, vacuum pump screens and other devices, including the traps, filters and screens themselves.