

NJDEP Best Management Practices for Dental Facilities

Adopted under N.J.A.C. 7:14A-21.12(d)

DO:

- Use mercury-free material when appropriate;
- Use precapsulated alloys only;
- Recycle used disposable capsules containing amalgam;
- Maintain and operate the amalgam separator when installed according to its manufacturer's specifications;
- Install chair-side amalgam traps in both the vacuum system and cuspidor of each operatory where restoration work is done;
- Change and clean chair-side amalgam traps frequently;
- Use only non-bleach, non-chlorine cleaners to clean vacuum system lines;
- Appropriately disinfect and store amalgam pieces from removal and restoration with amalgam waste;
- Store amalgam waste in airtight containers;
- Have a licensed recycling contractor, mail-in service or hazardous waste hauler remove amalgam waste;
- Recycle all amalgam waste containing mercury;
- Train staff in the proper handling, management, and disposal of mercury containing material; and
- Keep records to document that the BMP requirements are being met.

DON'T:

- Use bulk elemental mercury;
- Rinse traps or vacuum pump filters over drains or in the sinks;
- Throw or place the disposable trap, sludge from reusable trap, or vacuum pump filter or contents with regular garbage;
- Throw or place the disposable trap, sludge from reusable trap, or vacuum pump filter or contents into sharps containers or biohazard bag; and
- Flush amalgam waste down the drain.

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Best Management Practices require a dental facility to, at a minimum:

1. Use mercury-free material when appropriate;
2. Eliminate all use of bulk elemental mercury;
3. Use precapsulated alloys only;
4. Recycle used disposable capsules containing amalgam;
5. Maintain and operate the amalgam separator when installed according to its manufacturer's specifications;
6. Install chair-side amalgam traps in both the vacuum system and cuspidor of each operatory where restoration work is done;
7. Change and clean chair-side amalgam traps frequently;
8. Not rinse traps or vacuum pump filters over drains or in the sinks;
9. Not throw or place the disposable trap, sludge from reusable trap, or vacuum pump filter or contents with regular garbage;
10. Not throw or place the disposable trap, sludge from reusable trap, or vacuum pump filter or contents into sharps containers or biohazard bag;
11. Not flush amalgam waste down the drain;
12. Use only non-bleach, non-chlorine cleaners to clean vacuum system lines;
13. Appropriately disinfect and store amalgam pieces from removal and restoration with amalgam waste;
14. Store amalgam waste in airtight containers;
15. Have a licensed recycling contractor, mail-in service or hazardous waste hauler remove amalgam waste;
16. Recycle all amalgam waste containing mercury;
17. Train staff in the proper handling, management, and disposal of mercury containing material; and
18. Keep records to document that the BMP requirements are being met.