



BMPs for Dental Amalgam

The Dental Amalgam Best Management Practices (BMP) Program is a program designed to address the discharge of mercury and metals used by the local business community into the sewer system. Because of this potential, the City-Parish may require the facilities to obtain an Industrial User Discharge Permit. The general permit is driven by the policies and BMPs found in this document.

Program Details and Documents

Required Best Management Practices:

- **Eliminate all use of bulk elemental mercury.** Use only pre-capsulated dental amalgam. Any unused bulk elemental mercury must be recycled or hauled away as hazardous waste. It must never be poured in the regular trash, infectious waste (red bag), or down the drain.
- **Change or clean chair-side amalgam traps frequently. If cleaning the traps, flush the vacuum system before changing the chair-side trap.** Don't rinse the amalgam traps over drains or sinks. Consider dedicating specific chairs to amalgam placement and removal to minimize the number of amalgam-containing traps that need to be managed.
- **Change vacuum pump filters at least once per month or as directed by the manufacturer.**
- **Amalgam waste must be recycled or hauled away as hazardous waste:**
 - Non-contact amalgam (scrap),
 - Contact amalgam (amalgam removed from patients and extracted teeth containing amalgam),
 - Leaking or unusable amalgam capsules.
- **Store amalgam waste as directed by your recycler or hazardous waste disposal program.** This typically includes being in covered, segregated, and clearly labeled airtight plastic containers. Check with your recycler for any other specific requirements such as disinfection steps or necessary dry storage.
- **Maintain a log of amalgam waste generation and recycling/disposal.** Documentation of all amalgam waste recycling and disposal must be obtained from your recycler or hazardous waste hauler, kept on file, and made available upon request.

Resources:

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Dental Offices. "For Minimization of Mercury and Imaging Discharges to the Sewerage System by Dental Care Providers." Idaho State Dental Association.