Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Dental Offices

Pursuant to the Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. R2-2007-0077, the Castro Valley Sanitary District has implemented a Dental Amalgam Program to meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for mercury discharged into San Francisco Bay. The following BMPs are required of all dental offices (except exempt facilities) located in Castro Valley Sanitary District.

Use precapsulated amalgam. Limit amount of amalgam triturated. Keep a variety of capsule sizes. Discontinue use of bulk liquid mercury.

Dry vacuum system:
- Have a qualified maintenance technician, amalgam recycler, or hazardous waste disposal service pump out and clean the air-water separator tank.

Change chairside traps frequently. Store traps in a plastic bag with other amalgam waste. Never rinse traps in the sink.

Wet vacuum system:
- Change pump screen as needed or directed by manufacturer. Seal plastic container with screen and contents (including any water that may be present) and store with amalgam waste. Do not rinse.

Segregate amalgam-containing waste in air-tight containers following recycler’s or waste hauler’s instruction for separation of contact and non-contact amalgam. Do NOT include with medical “red bag” waste, regular solid waste, or general office recycling. Handle all types of amalgam waste as hazardous waste. Do not add water or waste fixer to amalgam waste containers, and keep containers dry at all times.

Wet vacuum system:
- Change pump screen as needed or directed by manufacturer. Seal plastic container with screen and contents (including any water that may be present) and store with amalgam waste. Do not rinse.

Dry vacuum system:
- Have a qualified maintenance technician, amalgam recycler, or hazardous waste disposal service pump out and clean the air-water separator tank.

Install and properly maintain an ISO certified amalgam separator.

Train staff annually in proper handling and disposal of amalgam materials. Also, train new staff when hired. Maintain a training log for all employees for a minimum of 3 years.

• Segregate amalgam-containing waste in air-tight containers following recycler’s or waste hauler’s instruction for separation of contact and non-contact amalgam. DO NOT include with medical “red bag” waste, regular solid waste, or general office recycling. Handle all types of amalgam waste as hazardous waste. Do not add water or waste fixer to amalgam waste containers, and keep containers dry at all times.

HOW DO I PROPERLY DISPOSE OF AMALGAM WASTE?
- Have a licensed contractor pick up amalgam waste for recycling
- Take to a County drop-off point
- Ship to metals recycler