



## ***Recommended Dental Amalgam Best Management Practices***

East Bay Municipal Utility District prohibits the discharge of untreated dental amalgam waste to the sanitary sewer. The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control has classified dental amalgam waste as a hazardous waste (Title 22 California Code of Regulations 66273.13). The following best management practices were developed to prevent untreated amalgam waste and untreated spent fixer solution from being discharged to the sanitary sewer.

### *Amalgam*

- Determine the appropriate amalgam spill size before mixing to decrease waste.
- Use pre-measured amalgam capsules to provide better mixing and decreased waste.
- Use pre-measured amalgam capsules designed to discourage amalgam residual.

### *Amalgam Waste*

- Recycle noncontact amalgam waste and spent amalgam capsules in a designated sealed container away from sinks and drains connected to the sanitary sewer. Dispose of the waste in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- Recycle contact amalgam waste, including amalgam waste from chair-side traps and vacuum filters, amalgam-contaminated gauze/cotton rolls, used disposable chair-side/cuspidor traps and vacuum filters in a designated sealed container away from sinks and drains connected to the sanitary sewer. Dispose of the waste in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- Use disposable chair-side traps and vacuum filters. If traps and filters are reusable, empty and clean them, at a minimum, once a week. Recycle the waste in the designated contact amalgam container. Clean the traps/filters away from sinks and drains connected to the sanitary sewer. Collect the wastewater in a designated container and dispose of it in accordance with federal, state and local regulations.

### *Operatories*

- Maximize the use of the vacuum system, which will capture more amalgam waste than a cuspidor.
- Avoid use of oxidizing vacuum line cleansers – studies have shown that they can mobilize mercury from residual amalgam. Use these cleansers only if the flushing waste is collected for recycling (see enclosed information on line cleaners).

### *Training*

- Train staff on the potential health and environmental risks of mercury.
- Train staff to dispose of all amalgam waste appropriately.
- Train staff on how to clean up mercury spills.

### *Spills*

Report to EBMUD - Environmental Services Division at (510) 287-1651 during business hours, or (510) 287-1458 during non-business hours, immediately upon discovering any significant spill or slug discharge of amalgam or spent fixer solution to the sanitary sewer.

### *Sign*

Post the EBMUD sign in work areas, e.g., sterilization room, to remind staff that the discharge of untreated amalgam waste and untreated spent fixer solution to the sanitary sewer is prohibited.