

DID YOU KNOW?

DENTAL OFFICES
GENERATE MERCURY, BIOMEDICAL,
FIXER SOLUTIONS AND LEAD WASTES THAT
**CANNOT BE DISPOSED WITH
REGULAR GARBAGE**

MUNICIPAL BY-LAWS PLACE
**CONCENTRATION LIMITS ON MERCURY
AND OTHER HEAVY METALS THAT CAN
ENTER THE WASTEWATER STREAMS**

FEDERAL REGULATIONS REQUIRE
DENTAL OFFICES TO HAVE A POLLUTION
PREVENTION PLAN
FOR DENTAL AMALGAM

SILVER CONTAINING WASTES
AS WELL AS SPENT X- RAY DEVELOPER
AND FIXER SOLUTIONS SHOULD
BE RECYCLED BY THE SUPPLIER

THE **APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL**
OF HAZARDOUS WASTE IS REQUIRED BY
BOTH ONTARIO'S WASTE MANAGEMENT
REGULATIONS AND MUNICIPAL
SEWER USE BYLAWS

AMALGAM WASTE INCLUDES:

- Contact amalgam, such as extracted teeth, containing amalgam restorations
- Non-contact or scrap amalgam
- Used, leaking, or unusable amalgam capsules
- Amalgam captured by chair-side traps, vacuum pumps screens and other devices, including the traps, filters, and screens themselves



Ontario regulations require dental practices where dental amalgam is placed, repaired or removed to install and maintain an ISO standard dental amalgam separator.

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

PROPER WASTE DISPOSAL IN DENTAL OFFICES



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

CATEGORIES OF WASTES FROM DENTAL OFFICES

MERCURY

Mercury was declared a toxic substance under the CEPA, 1999. In addition, mercury containing wastes - including dental amalgam wastes - may be classified as hazardous wastes.

BIOMEDICAL/PATHOLOGICAL

Biomedical wastes are classified as hazardous wastes. Biomedical waste containers must be released to a certified biomedical waste carrier for transport to an approved facility.

SILVER

Silver containing wastes and untreated spent X-Ray developer and fixer solutions should be recycled by the supplier.

LEAD

Lead foil packets and lead aprons must not be disposed to the general waste stream. Approved waste carriers must be utilized to transport and dispose of this waste.

WHAT SHOULD MY OFFICE BE DOING?

DO

- ✓ Do train staff in proper handling, management and disposal
- ✓ Do install and maintain an ISO certified amalgam separator or equivalent and connect all dental units to it
- ✓ Do use disposable chair-side traps and filters in your dental units
- ✓ Do remove the chair-side trap and place the entire trap into a break resistant, air tight container labeled "Hazardous Waste: Contact Amalgam"
- ✓ Do remove your vacuum pump filter from your dental unit. Fasten the lid securely onto the filter. Label the filter "Hazardous Waste: Contact Amalgam". Collect filters in a secondary container as provided by your supplier
- ✓ Do empty waste from reusable traps and filters into a marked waste container
- ✓ Do follow manufacturer's instructions regarding equipment maintenance
- ✓ Do store all wastes in sealed containers and ship within 90 days of being filled
- ✓ Do collect human tissue in red liners marked with the universal biohazard symbol
- ✓ Do maintain written or computerized logs of amalgam waste generated and of amalgam waste removed from the vacuum system or plumbing
- ✓ Do obtain receipts or other certified documentation from your recycler or hauler of all amalgam waste recycling or disposal shipments

DON'T

- ✗ Don't dispose of amalgam, human tissue, blood soaked materials or sharps into the regular garbage
- ✗ Don't wash amalgam particles down the drain
- ✗ Don't place amalgam wastes into the biomedical waste/sharps container
- ✗ Don't self-transport amalgam
- ✗ Don't give amalgam to an uncertified scrap metal dealer
- ✗ Don't use chlorine containing products to cleanse vacuum lines
- ✗ Don't pour chemicals or silver bearing x-ray film processing solutions into the drain, sink or open environment
- ✗ Don't wipe traps/filters with paper towels or any other material

THE DON'TS

