Did you know?

Amalgam waste from dental offices is one of the main sources of mercury discharges to publicly owned treatment works or POTWs. The EPA estimates 103,000 dental offices use or remove amalgam in the U.S. and almost all of these send their wastewater to POTWs. More than five tons of mercury are discharged by dentists annually and end up in our environment.

Source: epa.gov/eg/dental-effluent-guidelines

Dental dischargers:
Are you in compliance with EPA’s dental amalgam rule?

Learn how your dentist office should be managing its amalgam waste to comply with the latest regulations.

For questions and assistance contact —

Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program
amalgamrule@ksu.edu
(800) 578-8898
sbeap.org

Regulatory authority

U.S. EPA Region 7
Paul Marshall, P.E.
marshall.paul@epa.gov
(913) 551-9419

Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Steve Caspers
Pretreatment Specialist
steve.caspers@ks.gov
(785) 296-5551
The harm in amalgam

Mercury is a powerful neurotoxin that can be found in amalgam used for dental fillings. It bioaccumulates in aquatic life and can reach high concentrations in the food chain. Mercury poisoning can be fatal. It harms the nervous system, digestive and immune systems, and lungs and kidneys, and can also cause irreversible brain deficits and slow fetal and child development.

After wastewater has been treated, mercury-containing amalgam remains in the solid material left over. It makes its way into the environment through incineration, landfiling or land application of sludge, or through surface water discharge.

Effective July 14, 2017, the U.S. EPA adopted the Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Dental Category Final Rule to reduce the discharge of mercury-containing amalgam into POTWs from dental practices (40 CFR Part 441).

Source: epa.gov/eg/dental-effluent-guidelines

Who does this affect?

- Dental offices that remove or apply amalgam, including institutions such as dental schools and clinics are affected.
- Dental facilities that discharge wastewater into publicly owned treatment works, or POTWs, e.g., a municipal sewage system, are also affected by the rule. For more information refer to frequently asked questions at sbeap.org/dental_amalgam_rule

How to comply

- Do not discharge scrap amalgam, or oxidizing or acidic cleaners such as bleach, chlorine or peroxide that have a pH lower than 6 or greater than 8. Using these cleaners would allow mercury to be discharged into the city’s sewer.
- Install and maintain an amalgam separator to capture mercury and other metals before they enter sewer systems that drain to POTWs. Once captured, the mercury can be recycled.
- Complete and submit a one-time compliance report.

Compliance deadlines

- **July 14, 2020** (existing offices)
- **Immediately** (new users)

A one-time compliance report is due:

- **October 12, 2020** (existing offices)
- **Within 90 days of operation** (new users)

The one-time compliance report is available at sbeap.org. Complete and submit online or submit your report to —

**Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program**

2323 Anderson Ave., Suite 300 Manhattan, KS 66502 amalgamrule@ksu.edu (800) 578-8898 sbeap.org