



City of Spokane

Wastewater Treatment Facility



Dental Office Best Management Practices

Dental offices use and generate certain substances that when improperly discharged to the sewer system may cause harm to the environment.

Waste amalgam including, but not limited to, dental amalgam from chair-side traps, screens, vacuum pump filters, dental tools, cuspidors, or collection devices, must not be discharged to the City of Spokane Publicly Owned Treatment Works.

Required Management Practices

All dentists within the United States who discharge process water containing dental amalgam are required to have an amalgam separator or device that meets the requirements in 40 CFR 441.30 (a)(1) or (2). The removal device must treat all the wastewater that may contain mercury amalgam.

- Dental unit water lines, chair-side traps, and vacuum lines that discharge amalgam process wastewater to a POTW must not be cleaned with oxidizing or acidic cleaners, including but not limited to bleach, chlorine, iodine and peroxide that have a pH lower than 6 or greater than 8.
- The amalgam separator(s) must be inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's operating manual to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the separator(s) and to confirm that all amalgam process wastewater is flowing through the amalgam retaining portion of the amalgam separator(s).
- In the event that an amalgam separator is not functioning properly, the amalgam separator must be repaired consistent with manufacturer instructions or replaced with a unit that meets the requirements in 40 CFR 441.30 (a)(1) or (2) as soon as possible, but no later than 10 business days after the malfunction is discovered by the dental discharger.
- The amalgam retaining units must be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's schedule as specified in the manufacturer's operating manual or when the amalgam retaining unit has reached the maximum level, as specified by the manufacturer in the operating manual, at which the amalgam separator can perform to the specified efficiency, whichever comes first.

Recordkeeping Requirements

Dental Dischargers or an agent or representative of the dental discharger must maintain and make available for inspection, in either physical or electronic form, for a minimum of three years:

- Documentation of the date, person(s) conducting the inspection, and results of each inspection of the amalgam separator(s) or equivalent device(s), and a summary of follow-up actions, if needed.
- Documentation of amalgam retaining container or equivalent container replacement (including the date, as applicable).
- Documentation of all dates that collected dental amalgam is picked up or shipped for proper disposal and the name of the permitted or licensed treatment, storage or disposal facility receiving the amalgam retaining containers.
- Documentation of any repair or replacement of an amalgam separator or equivalent device, including the date, person(s) making the repair or replacement, and a description of the repair or replacement (including make and model).
- A copy of the One-time Compliance Report and any other supporting documents that were submitted to the City of Spokane.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about the requirements in this document, please contact us:

City of Spokane Wastewater Treatment Facility **(509) 625-4600**