

DENTAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

DO

AMALGAM

- Do use precapsulated alloys and stock a variety of capsule sizes
- Do recycle used disposable amalgam capsules
- Do salvage, store and recycle non-contact amalgam (scrap amalgam)
- Do salvage (contact) amalgam pieces from restorations after removal and recycle the amalgam waste
- Do use chair-side traps to retain amalgam and recycle the content
- Do clean vacuum pump filters once a month or as directed by the manufacturer
- Do recycle contents retained by the vacuum pump filter or other amalgam collection device, if they contain amalgam
- Do appropriately disinfect extracted teeth that contain amalgam restorations by storing them in a container of glutaraldehyde or 10% formalin and recycle along with the chair side trap waste
- Do use line cleaners that minimize dissolution of amalgam

XRAY FIXER & DEVELOPER

- Do segregate and recycle spent fixer
- Do put developer down the drain
- Do use approved silver recovery unit
- Do contract for spent fixer recycling

LEAD FOIL & SHIELDS

- Do recycle lead foil or shields

LABELING/RECORDS

- Do properly label and store your hazardous waste
- Do maintain a log of amalgam waste generation and recycling, collect and keep receipts from your recycler

DON'T

AMALGAM

- Don't use bulk mercury, don't ever pour it down the drain, in infectious waste containers (red bags) or regular garbage.
- Don't put used disposable amalgam capsules in biohazard containers, (red bags) or regular garbage
- Don't put non-contact amalgam waste in biohazard containers, infectious waste containers (red bags) or regular garbage
- Don't put contact amalgam waste in biohazard containers, infectious waste containers (red bags) or regular garbage
- Don't rinse chair-side traps containing amalgam over drains or sinks
- Don't rinse vacuum pump filters containing amalgam or other amalgam collection devices over drains or sinks
- Don't dispose of extracted teeth that contain amalgam restorations in biohazard containers, infectious waste containers (red bags) or regular garbage
- Don't flush amalgam waste down the drain or toilet
- Don't use bleach or chlorine containing cleaners to flush wastewater lines

XRAY FIXER & DEVELOPER

- Don't mix fixer and developer
- Don't pour fixer down the drain
- Don't use products to solidify xray fixer

LEAD FOIL & SHIELDS

- Don't give lead foil to patients for fishing weights

LABELING/RECORDS

- Don't mix waste streams
- Don't assume your waste is handled correctly. Ask for a Certificate of Recycling or Disposal

