



## AMALGAM BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Union Sanitary District  
5072 Benson Road  
Union City, CA 94587  
(510) 477-7500

**Overall Goals:** Use a licensed service contractor to recycle all amalgam trituration wastes, used capsules, chair-side traps, and vacuum pump screens or filters. Keep all of these items out of sinks, trash containers, and medical waste red bags.

Current Practice	Recommended Change	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use one large plastic container to collect used amalgam capsules, chair-side screens and traps, vacuum system screens and filters, and other mixed amalgam wastes. Do not rinse amalgam-containing traps, filters or containers in the sink. Do not mix with regular solid waste or with biohazard/medical waste. Do not add water or waste fixer to this plastic container.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use various sizes of pre-measured amalgam capsules to provide better mixing and less waste. The use of bulk mercury is prohibited.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use small plastic containers in each operatory to collect non-contact amalgam scrap for recycling. Do not add water or waste fixer.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	During amalgam restoration procedures maximize use of the high-speed suction (vacuum) and rubber dams. Doing so captures more waste amalgam.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Place extracted teeth with amalgam fillings into the mixed amalgam recycling or hazardous waste container. Ask your amalgam recycler/hauler if they prefer them to be disinfected first.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a licensed contractor pick up amalgam wastes for recycling, or use an appropriate mail-back service or drop-off location. Maintain receipts, certificates of recycle, manifests, or other documentation of proper disposal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain the amalgam separator according to the manufacturer's recommendations. As feasible per the separator design, keep an eye on the level of amalgam collected and be sure to empty or change out the collection container before it is over-full. Amalgam separator waste must also be disposed as hazardous waste or recycled through a licensed hauler or mail-back service. Maintain records of separator maintenance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If there are transparent bottle traps under operatory sinks or cuspidor drains where restorations are performed, check the traps for solids build-up and empty them into the mixed amalgam recycle or hazardous waste container as needed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use a non-bleach vacuum disinfectant that is approved by the manufacturer of your amalgam separator. It is important to avoid bleach because it will dissolve mercury out of amalgam.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photographic lead foils and fixer with silver should be sent to a recycler, or disposed of as hazardous waste.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Glutaraldehyde-based sterilizer solutions should be disposed of as hazardous waste. Glutaraldehyde-based sterilizers may only be disposed of in the sink <i>if they are neutralized first</i> . A number of products exist on the market to neutralize glutaraldehyde.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Train staff annually in proper amalgam, photographic silver, lead foil, and chemical waste management techniques. Also train new staff when hired. Maintain documentation of annual training.