

# DENTAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

## 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 as directed by the separator manufacturer

### X-RAY 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 for a minimum of three (3) years

## 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 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 oxidizing or acidic cleaners, e.g. bleach, chlorine, iodine and peroxide that have a pH lower than 6 or greater than 8

### X-RAY FIXER & DEVELOPER

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



For questions or additional regulatory requirements, see 40 CFR 441—Dental Point Source Category, or contact Idaho Department of Environmental Quality or your local Wastewater Treatment folks.

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