

Date Prepared 05/2001  
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Revised 5/24/10 P. Watt

**BMP Dental #1**

**TITLE:** Managing Amalgam Use, Storage and Recycling

**Regulatory Citation:** 6 NYCRR Part 371.1(g), and Part 374-4

**Applicability:** Spent amalgam and amalgam containers.

**Purpose:** Proper Use, Storage and Recycling of amalgam.

**Person or  
Department Responsible:** Dental Materials Instructor

**Schedule:** As needed

**Procedures:** Only single use amalgam capsules will be used in the Dental Hygiene Materials Lab. The attached best management practices for use and handling of dental amalgam are posted in the Materials Lab and reviewed with all students at the start of the semester.

All spent amalgam and amalgam capsules will be placed in the container labeled “**Scrap Amalgam**” that is located in the cabinet (labeled scrap amalgam storage) of the Dental Hygiene Materials Lab. The container must be dated the first time any amalgam is added to the container. The storage container must be filled with water to cover the amalgam and kept tightly closed, thereby reducing the potential for the release of mercury vapors.

At the end of the spring semester, Director of Environmental, Health and Safety will make arrangements for proper shipping of the container to a recycling vendor. The vendor must provide written certification of the following:

- The name and address of the collection service
- The amount by weight of dental amalgam waste and elemental mercury collected
- The date it was collected
- The name and address of the facility where the waste will ultimately be recycled
- A statement that the mercury contained in the waste was destined for recycling.

A new storage container will be obtained from the supplier and dated the first time any amalgam is added to the container. The container will be labeled, “Scrap Amalgam”

**Current Vendor:** approved universal waste contractor

**Record keeping:** Certification from recycler

**Record Location:** EHS Office, environmental files

**Contact:** Dental Material Instructor (629-7442 or 7481)  
Director of Environmental, Health and Safety (629-7163)

HVCC-BMP-Dental#1-amalagam

DENTAL AMALGAM  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES  
FOR USE AND HANDLING

- **Never** put scrap amalgam in the sharps container.
- **Never** put scrap amalgam where it will end up in a red biohazard bag.
- **Never** discard scrap amalgam in the trash.
- **Never** rinse scrap amalgam down the drain.
- **Never** remove excess amalgam from the amalgam well with the high-speed suction (the vacuum line).
- **Never** clean up a mercury spill using a vacuum cleaner.
- **Never** place extracted teeth with amalgam restorations in the red biohazard bag. They should be placed in a container which is acceptable to your recycler. Use universal precautions when handling extracted teeth (glasses, gloves and mask).