



Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
Regulatory Services Group
Dental Waste Best Management Practices

Waste¹	Source	Best Management Practice(s)	
Amalgam particles – (contact and non-contact)	Traps, screens, restoration removal, excess mix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Do send to a recycler (see list of recyclers in the enclosed brochure, “Amalgam Recycling in Maryland”) or •Do dispose of as hazardous waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Don’t flush down the drain or toilet or •Don’t dispose of to regular garbage or •Don’t dispose of in biohazard containers or •Don’t dispose of in infectious waste bags (red bags)
Waste filters	Vacuum pump filters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Do place lid on filter, place in the box that it was originally shipped, send to recycler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Don’t dispose of to regular garbage
Waste Mercury	Spills, spill cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Do manage as hazardous waste or •Do send to a recycler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Don’t flush down the drain or toilet or •Don’t dispose of to regular garbage or •Don’t dispose of in biohazard containers or •Don’t dispose of in infectious waste bags (red bags)
Disposable amalgam capsules (partially filled)	Amalgam restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Do place in wide-mouthed, airtight container marked “Amalgam Capsule Waste for Recycling” •Do send to a recycler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Don’t flush down the drain or toilet or •Don’t dispose of to regular garbage or •Don’t dispose of in biohazard container or •Don’t dispose of in infectious waste bags (red bags)
Disposable amalgam capsules (empty)	Amalgam restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Do place in wide-mouthed, airtight container marked “Amalgam Capsule Waste for Recycling” •Do send to a recycler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Don’t dispose of to regular garbage or •Don’t dispose of in biohazard container or •Don’t dispose of in infectious waste bags (red bags)
X-ray Fixer	X-ray processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Do sell to recycler or •Do pay to have silver reclaimed or •Do purchase silver recovery equipment (two most widely used are metallic replacement cartridges and electrolytic recovery units) to remove silver before disposing to sanitary sewer² •Do dispose of as hazardous waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Don’t flush down sanitary sewer drain or toilet without silver recovery or^{2,3} •Don’t dispose of to regular garbage or •Don’t dispose of in biohazard container or •Don’t dispose of in infectious waste bags (red bags) or •Don’t pour on ground
Developer	X-ray processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Do dispose of to sanitary sewer system if pH is within WSSC limits³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Don’t mix with fixer
Chemiclave	Sterilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Do replace with autoclave and/or •Do discourage the use of formaldehyde 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Don’t flush unused to sanitary sewer

¹ The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission recommends the use of amalgam separators for additional mercury removal.

² The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission’s discharge limitation for silver is 1.2 mg/l.

³ The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission’s pH limitation is 6.0-10.0.

* Discharge limitations are subject to change; refer to WSSC’s website, wsscwater.com, Regulatory Services Group/Industrial Discharge Control Program, for the current discharge limitations.