

The Plumbers Guide to Dental Amalgam Discharge Requirements

June 14, 2017 – EPA issues directive to dental industry, re: Dental Amalgam

July 14, 2020 – EPA deadline for compliance with Dental Amalgam directive

Dental Amalgam is the metallic tooth filling material which may contain various metals. Of concern is Amalgam containing mercury and the harmful health effects that mercury discharges (into the sanitary sewer system) will ultimately have on the environment, in particular the sources of drinking water.

August 18, 2017 – WSSC – Industrial Discharge Control Section (of the Regulatory Services Division) mailed a required “Survey” to State of Maryland licensed Dentists with mailing addresses within Montgomery and Prince George’s counties.

Completion of the survey is one requirement of EPA directive. A completed survey is a “certification” by the dental facility of their compliance. One survey per facility, not per dentist. A survey should be completed even if a dental facility is not in compliance. After compliance, an updated survey/certification will be required.

The second requirement is separation of dental amalgam from the wastewater. This will be accomplished in one of three ways:

- 1.) New/Remodeled dental facilities shall have an ISO 11143 certified or an ANSI/ADA Specification 108 compliant amalgam separator installed at the time of construction.
- 2.) Existing facilities with an existing separator are “grandfathered” for 10 years (until June 14, 2027 or until they need to be replaced, whichever is sooner). Then all existing separators need to be replaced with an ISO 11143 certified or an ANSI/ADA Specification 108 compliant (approved) separator.
- 3.) Existing facilities without an existing separator will have to install an approved one before July 14, 2020 and update their survey/certification.

The separator shall be installed between the dental operatory units/chairs and the vacuum pump.

Best management protocols preclude the discharge of amalgam down a sink drain or cuspidor.

A plumbing license, plumbing permit and inspection is not required for the installation of an amalgam separator.

Additional Information and forms can be found on WSSC’s IDC web pages:

wsscwater.com then search using **Dental Amalgam**; or

wsscwater.com; pass cursor over **Customer Service** and select **Customer Regulations** from the drop down list; next page click on **Industrial Discharges** link within section of same name; next page find and select **New! Dental Amalgam Survey** under **Quick Links** on bottom right side of page; or

<https://www.wsscwater.com/files/live/sites/wssc/files/industrial%20discharge/Cover%20Letter%20and%20Survey%20for%20Dental%20Amalgam%20-%20Internet%20Version.pdf>