

Dental Offices

EPA DENTAL RULE

This packet was prepared by the City of Arlington to help dental offices understand the Dental Rule published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on June 14, 2017. The Trinity River Authority (TRA) operates the local regional wastewater treatment plant and the City of Arlington is a Contracting Party of TRA. The TRA is the dental discharger's Control Authority for the City of Arlington.

The Dental Rule is in effect July 14, 2017. This packet provides a summary of the Rule. For more information, please visit the EPA website on this topic. This packet is meant to provide guidance and be a short checklist for a dental discharger or in the case of a transfer of ownership. This packet also demonstrates the American Dental Association's (ADA) support of removal and recycling of dental amalgam that contains mercury from the wastewater discharged to Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). The final rule contains two best management practices (BMPs) that are also recommended by the ADA.

For more information on the Dental Rule, please visit the following website:

<https://www.epa.gov/eg/dental-effluent-guidelines>



Water Utilities Department
101 W. Abram Street
P.O. Box 90231 MS 01-120
Arlington, TX. 76004-3231

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SUMMARY OF DENTAL RULE

What is the Dental Rule?¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires dental offices that discharge wastewater that contains dental amalgam to Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) to install, inspect, and maintain a dental amalgam separator. Requires the implementation of two best management practices (BMPs). Published in Federal Register by EPA on June 14, 2017. EPA estimates annual cost incurred by dental office: avg. of \$800 annually. 		
Why are standards needed?¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mercury from waste amalgam can end up in the environment from the POTW through incineration, landfilling, or land application. Mercury – potent neurotoxin that causes wide range of health issues. 		
Who is affected by the Dental Rule?¹	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> Applies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental offices Dental schools Dental clinics Government operated dental facilities </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> Does NOT apply to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile units Practices consisting ONLY of these specialties: oral pathology, oral & maxillofacial radiology/surgery, orthodontics, periodontics, or prosthodontics. </td> </tr> </table>	Applies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental offices Dental schools Dental clinics Government operated dental facilities 	Does NOT apply to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile units Practices consisting ONLY of these specialties: oral pathology, oral & maxillofacial radiology/surgery, orthodontics, periodontics, or prosthodontics.
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What kind of amalgam separator is required?²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An amalgam separator compliant with ISO11143 (2008). ISO Standard is incorporated into the current American National Standards Institute's (ANSI)/American Dental Association's (ADA) Standard 108 for Amalgam Separators. Amalgam separator must achieve 95% removal efficiency. 		
When will this rule affect dental offices?²	<p>The Effective Date of this rule is July 14, 2017.</p> <p>NEW dental offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MUST return One-Time Compliance Report within 90 days following the introduction of wastewater to the sanitary sewer. <p>TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MUST return One-Time Compliance Report within 90 days after a transfer of ownership. 		
What steps are needed to be taken to come into compliance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Install new amalgam separator in offices that do not currently have one. <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect existing models to make sure they are up to standard. <input type="checkbox"/> Establish internal documentation tracking procedures related to the inspection and maintenance of your amalgam separator. <input type="checkbox"/> Follow the ADA's Best Management Practices for handling dental amalgam. <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the One-Time Compliance Report for Dental Discharges. MUST be returned to the Control Authority (TRA) AND the City/Town. Retain a copy of this report on site for the duration of your practice/ownership. 		

ONE-TIME COMPLIANCE REPORT MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CITY OF ARLINGTON WITHIN 90 DAYS FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF WASTEWATER INTO THE SANITARY SEWER OR 90 DAYS AFTER A TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.

Please mail or deliver original signed copies to: City of Arlington Water Resource Services
 101 W. Abram Street,
 P.O. Box 90231 MS 01-120
 Arlington, TX 76004-3231

American Dental Association

Amalgam Waste Best Management Practices³

These Best Management Practices for Amalgam Waste encourages the dental community to follow the BMP for proper waste handling and disposal. The BMP by the American Dental Association calls for the use of ISO 11143-compliant amalgam separator as a recommendation. The ADA's BMP on Amalgam Waste follows the procedures outlined in the EPA's final rule on amalgam separators.

Do:

- Use pre-capsulated alloys & stock capsule size variety
- Recycle used disposable amalgam capsules
- Salvage, store, & recycle non-contact amalgam
- Salvage contact amalgam pieces from restorations after removal & recycle contents
- Recycle teeth containing dental amalgam restorations & verify whether or not teeth need disinfection
- Manage amalgam waste through recycling as much as possible
- Use line cleaners that minimize dissolution of amalgam

Don't:

- Use bulk mercury
- Put used disposable amalgam capsules in biohazard containers
- Put non-contact amalgam waste in biohazard containers, infectious waste containers, or regular garbage
- Rinse devices containing amalgam over drains or sinks
- Dispose of extracted teeth that contain amalgam restorations in biohazard containers, infectious waste containers, sharps containers, or regular garbage
- Flush amalgam down the drain/toilet
- Use bleach or chlorine-containing cleaners to flush wastewater lines

Resources

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Fact Sheet: Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for Dental Offices.](#)
2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Dental Category.](#)
3. American Dental Association. [Amalgam Separators and Waste Best Management.](#)