

# Dental Amalgam Recycling

Dental amalgam waste can be recycled to help prevent the release of mercury to the environment. Following the simple 'Do' & 'Don't' suggestion outlined in the chart will help protect the environment.

## AMALGRAM RECYCLERS

- **Bethlehem Apparatus**  
890 Front Street, P. O. Box 4  
Hellertown, PA 18055  
610-838-7034
- **METASYS Group**  
5001 SW 74th Court, Suite 206  
Miami, Florida 33155  
877-638-2797
- **Mercury Waste Solutions, Inc.**  
Union Grove, WI  
800-741-3343
- **AERC.Com Inc.**  
116 Sylvania Road, #E  
Ashland, VA 23005  
866-763-7287
- **Amalgaway**  
3672 E. Raymond Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46203  
800-267-1467
- **SolmeteX, Inc.**  
50 Bearfoot Road  
Northborough, Massachusetts 01532  
1-800-216-5505

Contact A  
Local  
Amalgam  
Recycler

## Best Management Practices for Amalgam Recycling

DO	DON'T
<b>Do</b> use precapsulated alloys	<b>Don't</b> use bulk mercury
<b>Do</b> recycle used disposable amalgam capsules	<b>Don't</b> put used disposable amalgam capsules in biohazard containers, infectious waste containers (red bags) or regular garbage
<b>Do</b> salvage, store and recycle non-contact amalgam (scrap amalgam)	<b>Don't</b> put non-contact amalgam waste in bio-hazard containers, infectious waste containers (red bags) or regular garbage
<b>Do</b> salvage (contact) amalgam pieces from restorations after removal and recycle the amalgam waste	<b>Don't</b> put contact amalgam waste in bio-hazard containers, infectious waste containers (red bags) or regular garbage
<b>Do</b> use chair-side traps to retain amalgam and recycle the content	<b>Don't</b> rinse chair-side traps containing amalgam over drains or sinks
<b>Do</b> recycle contents retained by the vacuum pump filter or other amalgam collection device, if they contain amalgam	<b>Don't</b> rinse vacuum pump filters containing amalgam or other amalgam collection devices over drains or sinks
<b>Do</b> appropriately disinfect extracted teeth that contain amalgam restorations (that is, 10 minutes in a 1:10 bleach-to-water solution) and recycle along with the chair-side trap waste (Note: Confirm with your recycler that they will accepted extracted teeth with amalgam restorations)	<b>Don't</b> dispose of extracted teeth that contain amalgam restorations in biohazard containers, infectious waste containers (red bags) or regular garbage
<b>Do</b> manage amalgam waste through recycling as much as possible	<b>Don't</b> flush amalgam waste down the drain or toilet

## Practical Guide to Integrating BMPs Into Your Practice

### Non-contact (scrap) amalgam

- Place non-contact, scrap amalgam in a wide-mouthed, airtight container that is marked “Non-contact Amalgam Waste for Recycling.”
- Make sure the container lid is well sealed.

### Amalgam capsules

- After mixing amalgam, place the empty capsules in a wide-mouthed, airtight container that is marked “Amalgam Capsule Waste for Recycling.”
- Capsules that cannot be emptied should likewise be placed in a wide-mouthed, airtight container that is marked “Amalgam Capsule Waste for Recycling.”
- Make sure the container lid is well sealed.
- When the container is full, send it to a recycler.

### Disposable chair-side traps

- Open the chair-side unit to expose the trap.
- Remove the trap and place it directly into a wide-mouthed, airtight container that is marked “Contact Amalgam Waste for Recycling.”
- Make sure the container lid is well sealed.
- When the container is full, send it to a recycler.
- Traps from dental units dedicated strictly to hygiene may be placed in with the regular garbage.

## Practical Guide to Integrating BMPs Into Your Practice cont.

### Reusable chair-side traps

- Open the chair-side unit to expose the trap.
- Remove the trap and empty the contents into a wide-mouthed, airtight container that is marked “Contact Amalgam Waste for Recycling.”
- Make sure the container lid is well sealed.
- When the container is full, send it to a recycler.
- Replace the trap into the chair-side unit. (Do not rinse the trap under running water as this could introduce dental amalgam into the waste stream.)

### Vacuum pump filters

- Change the filter according to the manufacturer’s recommended schedule. Note: The following instructions assume that your recycler will accept whole filters; some recyclers require different handling of this material, so check with your recycler first.
- Remove the filter. While holding the filter over a tray or other container that can catch any spills, decant as much of the liquid as possible without losing any visible amalgam. The decanted amalgam-free liquid can be rinsed down the drain.
- Put the lid on the filter and place the sealed container in the box in which it was originally shipped. When the box is full, the filters should be recycled.

# Amalgam Recycling in Maryland



## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

*Developed by the American Dental Association  
Distributed in cooperation with Maryland State  
Dental Association, Maryland Dental Society,  
Maryland Department of the Environment*



A guideline demonstrating how to manage and recycle dental amalgam waste to help protect the environment.