

# Dental Amalgam Rule

## What is the Dental Amalgam Rule?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Dental Effluent Guidelines in the Federal Register on June 14, 2017. The primary goal of the rule is to reduce the amount of mercury discharged to the environment from dental facilities through their wastewater discharge. The rule became effective on July 14, 2017. New sources must be in compliance immediately, and existing sources by July 14, 2020.

## To Whom Does It Apply?

Dental facilities, including large institutions such as dental schools and clinics, where dentistry is practiced, and that discharge to a wastewater treatment facility. If your wastewater services are provided by Colorado Springs Utilities, our Industrial Pretreatment Section is your Control Authority.

The rule does not apply to mobile unites or offices where the practice of dentistry consists of only the following dental specialties: oral pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, periodontics, or prosthodontics. Additionally, dental offices may be excluded if they do not place or remove amalgam except in limited or unplanned circumstances, or if they do not discharge any amalgam process wastewater to the sewer system by collecting and transferring their amalgam-laden wastewater to an off-site disposal facility for treatment.

## What Is Required Of My Dental Facility?

ALL facilities must submit a one-time compliance certification, even if excluded from the requirements of the rule.

If the rule applies to your facility, then you must do the following:

- Install, operate, and maintain an amalgam separator that meets ISO 11143 standard or equivalent;
- Discontinue the use of line cleaners that are oxidizing or acidic and that have a pH of higher than 8 or lower than 6;
- Do not discharge any waste amalgam to the sewer system;
- Dispose of separator cartridges and/or scrap amalgam from chair-side traps through a certified disposal provider;
- Retain maintenance and service records for amalgam separators for a minimum of three years;

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## What is the difference between a New Source and an Existing Source?

### Existing Source

Established prior to July 14, 2017

- If the facility installed an amalgam separator prior to June 14, 2017 which does not meet ISO 11143, the office must install a compliant amalgam separator by June 14, 2027
- If the facility had not installed an amalgam separator prior to June 14, 2017, they must be in compliance by July 14, 2020
- The facility must submit a one-time compliance report by October 12, 2020

### New Source

Established after July 14, 2017

- All new sources must install an ISO 11143-compliant (or equivalent) amalgam separator prior to the discharge of any process wastewater
- The dental office must provide the one-time compliance report within 90 days of discharging amalgam process wastewater

## Why am I receiving this notice from Colorado Springs Utilities?

As an EPA-approved program, Colorado Springs Utilities' Industrial Pretreatment Section is required by law to implement the Dental Amalgam Rule. All dental facilities whose wastewater is treated by a Colorado Springs Utilities wastewater treatment facility are receiving this notification, and are required to submit the one-time compliance report.

## Where may I find additional information about my requirements?

Please visit us on the web to review additional information, download the one-time compliance report, or view the *Mercury Source Control Policies and Procedures Manual*.

Your attention and response to this notice are necessary to keep your dental facility in compliance with the Dental Amalgam Rule. Please contact the Industrial Pretreatment Section with any questions.

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