



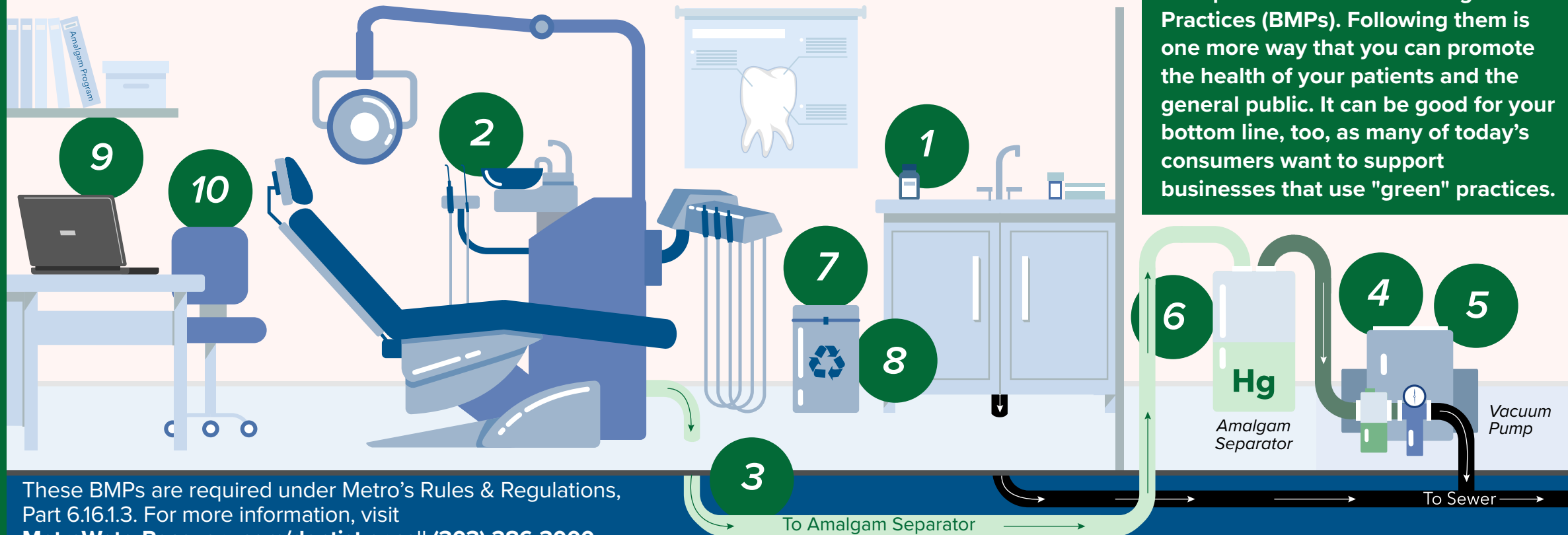
# Help Reduce Mercury Pollution

## WITH THESE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

A healthy dental practice will incorporate these Best Management Practices (BMPs). Following them is one more way that you can promote the health of your patients and the general public. It can be good for your bottom line, too, as many of today's consumers want to support businesses that use "green" practices.

### AMALGAM WASTE INCLUDES:

- contact amalgam such as extracted teeth containing amalgam restorations;
- non-contact or scrap amalgam;
- used, leaking, or unusable amalgam capsules;
- amalgam captured by chair-side traps, vacuum pump screens, and other devices, including the traps, filters, and screens themselves.



These BMPs are required under Metro's Rules & Regulations, Part 6.16.1.3. For more information, visit [MetroWaterRecovery.com/dentist](http://MetroWaterRecovery.com/dentist) or call (303) 286-3000.

BMPs are:  
**GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!**  
**GOOD FOR PATIENTS!**  
**GOOD FOR BUSINESS!**

#### 1 Eliminate use of bulk elemental mercury.

Bulk elemental mercury, also referred to as liquid or raw mercury, must be recycled or disposed of as hazardous waste. Use only pre-encapsulated dental amalgam in the smallest appropriate size.

#### 2 Properly handle chair-side traps.

Clean and maintain chair-side traps in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Store the trap and its contents with amalgam waste. *Never rinse traps in the sink or flush amalgam waste in the toilet.*

#### 3 Do not use sodium hypochlorite (bleach), peroxide, iodine, or chlorine-based products to clean vacuum lines.

These products have been shown to release mercury in the amalgam. Use only non-chlorine, non-oxidizing, neutral line cleaners with a **pH between 6 and 8**.

#### 4 Properly maintain and dispose of screens.

Change vacuum pump filters and screens as needed or as directed by the manufacturer and store with amalgam waste. Seal and store filters and screens and their contents (including any water that may be present) with amalgam waste in an airtight container.

#### 5 Maintain the vacuum system.

For dry vacuum turbine units, have a qualified maintenance technician, amalgam recycler, or hazardous waste disposal service pump out and clean the air-water separator tank.

#### 6 Maintain amalgam separator(s) according to manufacturer recommendations.

Keep written or computerized records of monthly visual amalgam separator inspections, as well as all documentation of amalgam equipment maintenance and repair for no less than three years. When an amalgam separator is not functioning properly, it must be repaired consistent with the manufacturer recommendations or replaced no more than 10 days after the malfunction is discovered.

#### 7 Store amalgam waste in airtight containers.

All contact and non-contact amalgam scrap must be salvaged and stored in a structurally sound, tightly closed, and appropriately labeled container.

#### 8 Properly recycle amalgam waste.

Transfer amalgam wastes to an off-site recycling facility either through a licensed recycling contractor or use a mail-in service. Obtain documentation for all amalgam recycling and disposal. Keep these records for at least three years and available for inspection.

#### 9 Keep records.

All amalgam-related paperwork must be retained for no less than three years, excluding the One-Time Compliance Report, which must be maintained as long as a Dental facility is in operation or until ownership is transferred.

#### 10 Train staff in proper handling, management, and disposal of mercury-containing materials.

Maintain a training log and keep this log for at least three years. This log must be made available to your inspector.

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