



New York City Dental Amalgam Waste Compliance Report

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions



DEP Amalgam webpage: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/amalgam-separators-dental-industry.page>

Questions? Please e-mail: bwt-pretreatment@dep.nyc.gov

What is the purpose of this form?

The purpose of this form is to provide a consistent format for dentists to satisfy this **one-time** reporting requirement. City, State, and Federal regulations require that **ALL** dental facility waters likely to come into contact with amalgam waste must be treated prior to discharge by an amalgam separator, meeting certain specifications.

Whom must this submit this compliance report form?

All dental practices that submitted an amalgam separator form prior to **June 2018** are required to submit the form, as *new* compliance requirements are specified.

Why is amalgam waste being regulated?

These regulations are in place to protect public health and reduce the risk of mercury exposure from entering the environment through wastewater discharges, landfilling, incineration, etc. As of 2019 and per State regulations, DEP has begun to perform inspections at dental facilities.

What is an amalgam separator and its purpose?

An amalgam separator is equipment placed in-line, designed to capture up to 99% of amalgam particles from a dental facility's wastewater. The equipment separates amalgam particles through various methods and significantly reduces the amount of amalgam waste entering the sewage system. Chair-side traps and vacuum filters traditionally remove much less of this waste. (Source: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8846.html>)

When do dentists need to submit this form?

Dentists may complete and submit a copy of this form to satisfy the **one-time** reporting requirement. Follow-up reporting by dentists is only required when **new separators** are placed in service. However, whenever a dental discharger transfers ownership of the facility, the **new owner** must submit a new one-time Compliance Report to DEP. The Due Dates for both scenarios must be submitted no later than 30 days following the first operation or ownership transfer.

What if my dental facility's discharge does not enter a sewer?

If the discharge is not to a sewage treatment works, e.g. if the wastewater is discharged to an on-site septic tank/leach field, without subsequent pickup and discharge to a NYC public sewer, the Compliance Report is **NOT** required by these rules.

Please note: When completing the form, as a dental facility discharger, you are certifying (Part E) that your practice is implementing and following the Best Management Practices (BMP) and Certifying (Part F) said statement to be true, accurate, and complete. Please also note that this form is **NOT** a permit and that the dental facility owner/operator is responsible for compliance with all other government regulations.