



## Reporting Requirements for Virginia Dental Offices That Apply or Remove Amalgam

A federal rule that was published June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 requires dental practices that apply or remove amalgam to install an amalgam separator to capture waste amalgam. EPA estimates that dentists discharge approximately 5.1 tons of mercury, a neurotoxin, each year to wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). DEQ works with WWTPs to decrease toxins from entering wastewater.

Dentists must report the type of amalgam separator devices installed, when it was installed, how it is maintained, and perform two Best Management Practices (BMPs). These requirements apply to:

- **dental offices including large institutions such as dental schools and clinics, temporary or permanent offices;**
- **home dental offices; and**
- **dental facilities owned and operated by federal, state or local governments (including military bases) that discharge to a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant.**

Note: While the Dental Rule exempts dentists who discharge to a septic system and dentists who operate out of mobile dental clinics from being required to have amalgam separators, the waste from these two practices is usually discharged to a WWTP for treatment. The WWTP may have its own restrictions on waste that they accept, and may not take dental wastewater that could contain amalgam. It is recommended that the WWTP that will receive the dental wastewater be contacted to see if there are restrictions. If so, then installing an amalgam separator would resolve the issue.

Business Status	Installation Deadline	Reporting Deadline
Office in business before July 14, 2017, with no separator	July 14, 2020	within 90 days of installation
Existing office with amalgam separator	Separator meets rule until June 14, 2027, unless a replacement is needed	October 12, 2020
New office that begins operating or discharging on or after July 14, 2017	at opening	within 90 days of installation
Transfer ownership of existing office with no separator	July 14, 2020	within 90 days after transfer of ownership
Transfer ownership of existing office with existing separator	Separator meets rule until June 14, 2027, unless replacement is needed	within 90 days after transfer of ownership
Office that does not place or remove amalgam except in limited emergency or unplanned events and who can certify as such (estimated less than 5%)	No Separator needed	October 12, 2020

Please go to DEQ’s webpage at [www.deq.virginia.gov/DentalRule.aspx](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/DentalRule.aspx) to get details and download the Virginia Dental Rule Compliance Form. Save the form to your computer, fill it out electronically, name it as ‘zip code underscore last name’, and attach it to an email to [DentalRule@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:DentalRule@deq.virginia.gov).