

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Policy No.: EC001	Approved by: Carolyn Place
Title: Dental Amalgam and Mercury Containing Waste Disposal	Date: 09/29/2025
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Prepared by: Brad Miler	

I. PURPOSE

This policy establishes procedures for the safe handling, storage, and disposal of mercury-containing dental amalgam, including extracted teeth that contain mercury based amalgam.

II. PERSONNEL AFFECTED

This policy applies to all dental staff, faculty, students, residents, and support personnel who generate, handle, or dispose of dental-related hazardous materials within the University of Rochester.

III. DEFINITIONS

Contact mercury amalgam: Amalgam waste (containing mercury) that has been in contact with body fluids (e.g., from extracted teeth, chairside traps, vacuum pump filters).

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Dental Clinical Staff:** Segregate and properly collect dental-related hazardous materials; provide containers and ensure containers are labeled and maintained in accordance with this policy; request hazardous waste pickups using the CampusOptics system (see Environmental Compliance Website: <https://www.safety.rochester.edu/homepages/envcompliancehome.html>)
- B. Environmental Compliance Staff (x52056):** Provide guidance on proper management of dental hazardous materials; pickup, remove and dispose of waste in response to requests.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Dental amalgam waste collection and labelling**
All amalgam scrap, including residue from chairside traps, vacuum pump filters, old restorations, and extracted teeth containing amalgam fillings must be collected and disposed of as Hazardous Waste.
- B. Waste collection container**
Place all contact mercury amalgam and extracted teeth containing mercury amalgam in container with leak-proof lid, half-filled with 10% formalin

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solution. Each container must be labeled with the words “Hazardous Waste” and the words “Contact Amalgam”

C. Waste Pickup

When containers are full, use the CampusOptics system to generate and print a hazardous waste card for each container. Attach printed Hazardous Waste Card to individual container and submit a pickup request via CampusOptics - available through EHS website or at following link:

<https://secure1.rochester.edu/safety/restricted/labsafety/campusoptics/campusoptics.html>

D. Composite Resin Filling Material:

Mix unwanted or leftover 2-part epoxy filling materials per manufacturer’s instructions. After hardening, the material is no longer hazardous and may be disposed of in the regular trash.

Extracted teeth containing only composite fillings are not considered Hazardous Waste and should be disposed of as Regulated Medical Waste (red bag).

VI. REFERENCES

Campus Optics:

<https://secure1.rochester.edu/safety/restricted/labsafety/campusoptics/campusoptics.html>

VII. APPENDICES/FORMS

VIII. REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision No.	Description
10/09/2025	New	Stand-alone policy established for dental amalgam and mercury containing waste disposal (previously part of EHS Management of Hazardous Materials and Wastes manual)