

Amalgam wastes

Dental amalgam is considered hazardous waste because:

- It contains up to 50% mercury and mercury compounds, which are extremely toxic
- in liquid form, it has limited absorption through skin
- in vapour form, it is extremely toxic (absorbed through lungs, damages immune system; dangerous to unborn child)

Amalgam works on the basis of Cumulative Effect – i.e. the greater the exposure, the greater the effect. The only safe waste disposal options is collection and recycling.



DO NOT dispose of mercury or amalgam contaminated wastes in clinical waste bags or sharps containers.



DO NOT dispose of amalgam down the drain as this leads to water and land contamination.



DO NOT dispose of amalgam with waste destined for incineration as this leads to air contamination.

