

Dental Offices

The two biggest pollutants of concern coming from dental offices are mercury and silver. Your vacuum lines, sinks and toilets all lead to local sewer lines, so anything you pour down the drain goes to the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant and has a potential to be discharged to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Because the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant facility is not designed to remove metals like mercury and silver, the Environmental Compliance Section seeks your support to control discharges. Controlling discharges of heavy metals protects both our local aquatic life and our health. If spilled or disposed of improperly these contaminants can pollute our local creeks and sewer system causing harm to the public and the environment.

As a valued member of the local business community, we know that you are invested in protecting the quality of life that your customers, members of the community, and visitors enjoy.

Wastewater Discharge Permit Requirements: All dental practices are required to install an ISO 11143 compliant amalgam separator unless the conditions for exemption below are met. Visit www.srcity.org/dentalapp for a Wastewater Discharge Permit Application.

Conditions for Exemption: A facility is exempt from installing an amalgam separator if it does not place amalgam, and only removes amalgam in limited emergency or unplanned circumstances. The facility must also serve one of the following primary functions:

- Periodontics
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- Radiology
- Oral pathology or oral medicine
- Orthodontics
- Prosthodontics

Follow Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Maintain your amalgam separator per manufacturer specifications.
- Use precapsulated amalgam. The use of bulk liquid mercury is prohibited.
- Change chairside traps frequently. Store traps and contents as amalgam waste. Never rinse traps in the sink.
- Change wet vacuum pump screen as needed. Seal plastic container with screen and all contents and store with amalgam waste. Never rinse contents down the drain.
- Segregate amalgam-containing waste. Do not include with medical "red bag" waste, regular solid waste, or general office recycling containers. Red bag waste is especially problematic as a receptacle for amalgam waste as it is generally incinerated, which volatilizes mercury. Store amalgam waste in air-tight containers, following your waste hauler's instruction.
- Properly dispose of x-ray fixer using a licensed waste hauler. Never pour fixer down the sink.
- Do not use iodine, chlorine, peroxide or bleach containing products when cleaning your vacuum line system. Vacuum line cleaner must have a pH between 6-8 when used.
- Train staff in the proper handling and disposal of amalgam and x-ray waste. Maintain a training log.
- Maintain disposal logs for amalgam and x-ray fixer waste.

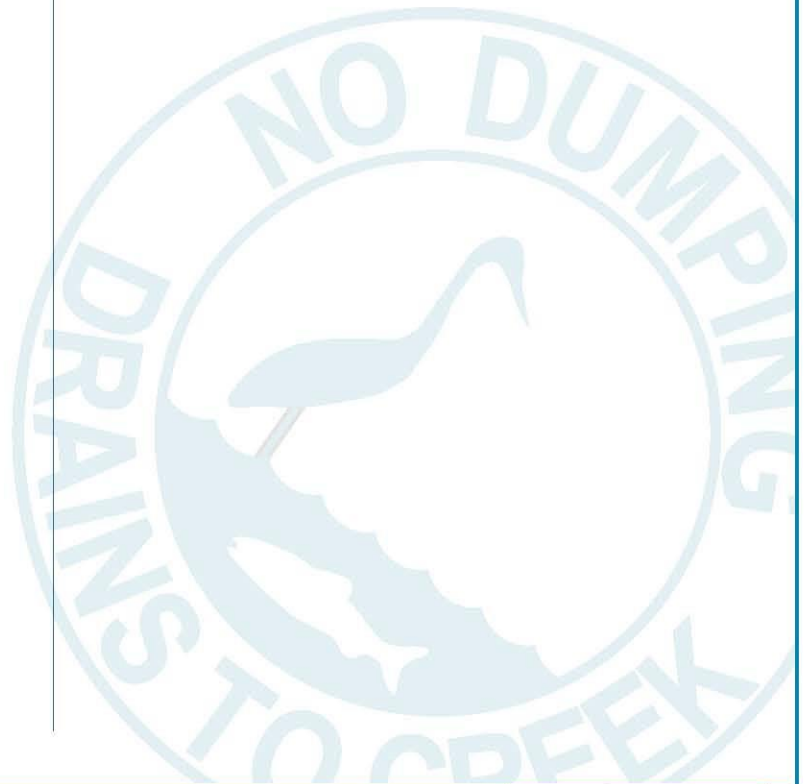
Become a Pollution Prevention Partner

- The City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section inspects dental practices every three years. If the inspection shows that the office is in compliance with their Wastewater Discharge Permit, as well as the required Best Management Practices from the City Sewer Code Title 15.08.567, then the dental practice will receive a certificate.

Santa Rosa Contact Information

- For more information about obtaining a Wastewater Discharge Permit call the Environmental Compliance Section at (707) 543-3369 or visit www.srcity.org/envcompliance.
- For proper disposal questions on hazardous materials and recycling call the Eco-Desk at (707) 565-DESK (3375), or visit www.recyclenow.org
- If spilled material reaches the storm drain system call (707) 543-3800 to report it.
- If spilled material contains hazardous materials call 911 or (707) 528-5151.

Releasing mercury or silver into the sanitation system is a direct violation of the City of Santa Rosa's sewer ordinance code.



Contact information for businesses outside of Santa Rosa:



City of Cloverdale

Public Works Department

<http://www.cloverdale.net/index.aspx?nid=254>

(707) 894-1792



City of Cotati

Public Works/Engineering Department

<http://www.ci.cotati.ca.us/sections/departments/pw-storm-water.cfm>

During Business Hours: (707)665-3637

After Hours: (707)792-4611

Businesses in Cotati seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.



City of Fort Bragg

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/stormwater.htm>

(707) 964-5379



City of Healdsburg

Public Works Department

<http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/index.aspx?page=192>

(707) 431-3346



City of Rohnert Park

Public Works Department – Public Safety Dispatch

<http://www.rpcity.org/index.aspx?page=357>

(707) 588-3300

Businesses in Rohnert Park seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.



City of Sebastopol

Public Works Department for reporting issues

Engineering Department for questions

<http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/page/water-wastewater-storm-water>

During Business Hours: (707) 823-5331

After Hours: (707) 829-4400

Businesses in Sebastopol seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.



City of Ukiah

Public Works Department

<http://www.cityofukiah.com/?p=173>

(707) 463-6296



Mendocino County

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/stormwater.htm>



Sonoma County

PRMD Engineering

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/sw/sw-contact.htm>

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/sw/sw-spill.htm>

During Business Hours: (707) 565-2502

After Hours: (707) 573-1365 (REDCOM)



Sonoma County Water Agency

Public Works Department – Engineering Division

<http://www.scwa.ca.gov/storm-water/>

During Business Hours: (707) 521-1865



Town of Windsor

<http://www.ci.windsor.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=232>

(707) 838-5340