



## City of Phoenix

WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION  
Quality Reliability

---

# FEDERAL LEGISLATION APPLYING TO DENTAL FACILITIES!

---

On June 9, 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency enacted the Dental Amalgam Rule in an effort to reduce the amount of mercury introduced to the environment by dental amalgam. The rule became effective on July 14, 2017. All dischargers are required to comply with the standards in the rule **within 90 days of initial discharge**. All dental practices are required to submit a new one-time compliance report including ownership changes.

The final rule applies to dental facilities that discharge to the City of Phoenix sewer system from where the practice of dentistry is performed, including large institutions such as dental schools and clinics; permanent or temporary offices, home offices, and facilities; and including dental offices owned and operated by federal, state, or local governments including military bases.

### Exemptions

Dental dischargers that do not place dental amalgam, and do not remove dental amalgam except in limited emergency or unplanned, unanticipated circumstances are exempt from any further requirements **as long as they certify such in their one-time Compliance Report to the Environmental Services Division**. Limited circumstances means dental offices that remove amalgam at a frequency less than five percent of its procedures. *However a dental office that stocks amalgam capsules clearly intends to place amalgam, and does not represent the type of limited circumstance this exception is intended to address.*

The final rule does not apply to wastewater discharges from dental offices where the practice of dentistry consists exclusively of one or more of the following dental specialties: oral pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, periodontics, or prosthodontics. Mobile Dental Units are exempt from the Dental Amalgam Rule and have no reporting requirements.

**Please take time to read the information in this packet and fill out the appropriate one time compliance form. Feel free to contact Environmental Services Division at 602-495-7412 or 602-495-5926 with any questions.**