



INDUSTRIAL WASTE PROGRAM

*Partnering with Industries
to Prevent Pollution*

New Discharge Regulations for Dental Offices

Dental practices that discharge waste material into the King County sewage system must be in compliance with the [county discharge limits](#) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

In July 2017, the EPA published new regulations for dental offices in the Code of Federal Regulations, [40 CFR Part 441](#).

Most dental offices (about 95%) in King County's wastewater service area already have installed approved amalgam separator units. However, the new rules apply to some dental practices that were previously exempt under King County's best management practices, including endodontists and some pediatric specialties.

According to the new regulations, dentists must:

- Install an amalgam separator* for their drains
- Maintain it regularly
- Submit a one-time compliance report to King County Industrial Waste according to the following timeline:
 - By 10/12/20 for existing offices
 - Within 90 days if the office is new or transferred to a new owner after July 14, 2017

KCIW is developing materials to assist dentists meet the requirements. We have updated our website and will be posting the one-time compliance report form online by mid-September.

KCIW is also coordinating with the Seattle King County Dental Society to spread the word about this change.

As always, we are available to help our customers understand this change and to guide new dental offices and dental offices transferring ownership.

***What is an amalgam separator?**

- An amalgam separator takes the mercury and other pollutants out of the water that goes down the drain in the dentist's office. This way both the pollutants and the water can be treated properly to protect the environment.
- [Mercury dropped significantly in the recycled products](#) from King County's wastewater treatment plants after we began working with dentists to install amalgam separators in 2000.