The EPA finalized technology-based pretreatment standards under the Clean Water Act to reduce discharges of mercury and other metals from dental offices into municipal sewage treatment plants known as publicly owned treatment works (POTWs). The rule requires dental offices to comply with requirements based on practices recommended by the American Dental Association, including the use of amalgam separators.

Reporting Requirements
Dental offices that place or remove amalgam must operate and maintain an amalgam separator and must not discharge scrap amalgam or use certain kinds of line cleaners. Existing and new sources must submit a one-time compliance report to their pretreatment Control Authority.

Who is My Control Authority
For dentists with offices in Boise, Caldwell, Nampa, Lewiston, Coeur d’Alene, Sandpoint, Twin Falls, Burley, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Rexburg, and Blackfoot please contact the DEQ Regional Office in your city.
For all other dentists please contact Idaho DEQ’s Pretreatment and Biosolids Coordinator Brynn at brynn.lacabanne@deq.idaho.gov.

Entities Not Subject to Rule Requirement
The following specialties are not subject to any of the rule requirements, including submission of a one-time compliance report:
- Oral Pathology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthodontics
- Periodontics
- Prosthodontics

What are the compliance deadlines?
Dental dischargers that were discharging into POTW’s prior to July 14, 2017 must be in compliance with the standards by July 14, 2020, and submit a one-time compliance report certifying such by October 12, 2020. Dental dischargers whose first discharge to a POTW occurs after July 14, 2017 must be in compliance with the standards immediately and submit a one-time compliance report certifying such within 90 days after first discharge to a POTW.

You can access information regarding the EPA’s Dental Effluent Guidelines at:
www.epa.gov/eg/dental-effluent-guidelines