

Code of Practice for Dental Operations

Are there any exemptions from the Code of Practice?

Dental offices where dental amalgam is neither placed nor removed (such as orthodontic, oral medicine, periodontic, and oral surgery practices) will be exempt from the requirement to install amalgam separators required under the Code of Practice for Dental Operations.

Dental offices that remove amalgam on a rare occasion should speak with a product representative that can size the correct amalgam separator to meet the limited needs.

In addition, dental offices where only digital x-ray processes are used will be exempt from the requirement to install silver recovery technology, required under the Code of Practice for Photo Imaging Operations.



For more information contact:

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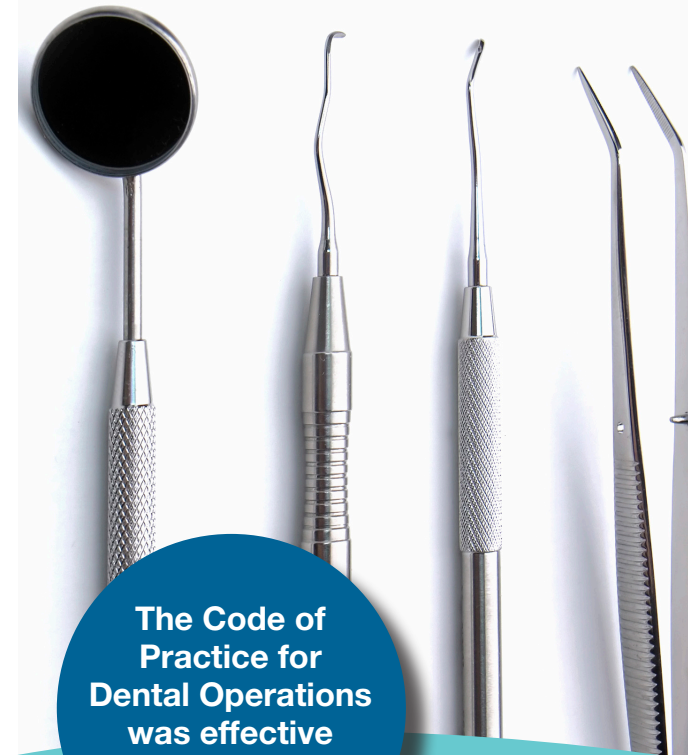
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 **Abbotsford
Mission**
Water & Sewer Services

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Code of Practice for **Dental Operations**



**The Code of
Practice for
Dental Operations
was effective
January 1, 2010**

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What is a Code of Practice?

A code of practice is a regulatory requirement that helps control waste discharged to the sanitary sewer. A code of practice sets out minimum waste treatment, equipment maintenance and record keeping requirements for specific industries.

The **Code of Practice for Dental Operations** is a regulation for managing waste materials generated by routine dental procedures. Dental offices who use non-digital x-ray procedures are also required to follow the **Code of Practice for Photo Imaging Operations**.

Codes of practice are regulated through the City of Abbotsford Sewer Rates and Regulations Bylaw, 2009 and the District of Mission Sewer Bylaw No. 5033-2009.



What is Required by the Code of Practice?

A dental office that produces wastewater containing dental amalgam must treat the waste prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer using an ISO certified amalgam separator.

The amalgam separator must be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's or supplier's maintenance schedule, a monitoring point at the outlet of the amalgam separator must be installed, and the amalgam separator must be located in such a location that a spill or leak will not result in untreated waste entering any sewer. For each installed amalgam separator, the dental office must keep an on-site record book including the following information:

- Date of installation of the amalgam separator;
- Serial number and expiry date of the amalgam separator and its components;
- Date of inspection, maintenance, cleaning, and replacement of any equipment;
- Contact info for person or company who performs maintenance or disposal service; and
- Dates and volume of pick-up of the collecting container for off-site disposal.

All records must be maintained for a period of two years. Copies of generic record keeping forms are available through the Abbotsford/Mission Source Control Program. Additional detailed requirements are listed in the **Code of Practice for Dental Operations** bylaw.

Why is Dental Waste a Concern?

Routine dental procedures can generate harmful waste materials such as dental amalgam, spent x-ray processing solutions, chemiclave solutions, disinfectants, cleaning agents, rinse solutions and pharmaceuticals. These materials may contain elevated levels of heavy metals such as mercury, silver, copper, tin and zinc.

Although the volume of these materials discharged from individual dental offices may be small, the cumulative amount of waste from all dental offices within the Abbotsford/Mission service area has the potential to have a significant impact on the environment and on the solids waste recycling efforts.

By following the **Code of Practice for Dental Operations**, dental offices will significantly reduce the amount of contaminants that end up at the JAMES Treatment Plant and eventually in the Fraser River.



If your dental office uses non-digital x-ray or photo imaging procedures, you are also required to follow the requirements outlined in the Code of Practice for Photo Imaging Operations.