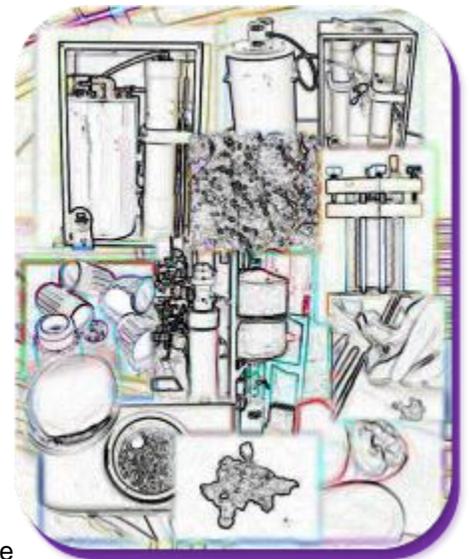


Amalgam Separator Update/Reminder (1/12)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is still expected to make an announcement requiring dental facilities to reduce mercury waste by installing and maintaining amalgam separators. The EPA rule will take effect in 2012 and even though the exact date is to be determined, USAF dental facilities are expected to have a fully operational system in place by the EPA deadline. To ensure compliance and allow clinics adequate time to meet this requirement, AFMOA published an update to the *USAF Best Management Practices for Amalgam Waste* almost a year ago (February 2011) that instructed clinics to begin researching and preparing for the purchase and installation of an amalgam separator system. For additional information regarding Air Force policy and amalgam separators [Click Here](#). Therefore, if you haven't already decided upon an amalgam separator for your clinic and obtained funding, it is time to finalize your decisions and purchase the equipment. Funding for this initiative is local however; clinics are encouraged to request funding from their Medical Treatment Facility when available.



While, DECS is willing to help with product selection, clinics should review the *Synopsis of Dental Amalgam Separators and Items to Consider Before Purchasing an Amalgam Separator* (last page of the synopsis) on the DECS Web site (<http://www.afms.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130328-068.pdf>) and consult with their local facility managers and biomedical engineering technicians before contacting DECS. This will help ensure compatibility of the amalgam separator with your existing facility. Other important items to discuss with your facility managers and biomedical engineering technicians are installation and maintenance requirements and proper disposal of the waste.

To contact DECS with questions about amalgam separators [Click Here](#).