

Health Canada's Position Statement on Dental Amalgam

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Health Canada advises dentists to take the following measures:

Non-mercury filling materials should be considered for restoring the primary teeth of children where the mechanical properties of the material are suitable.

Whenever possible, amalgam fillings should not be placed in or removed from the teeth of pregnant women.

Amalgam should not be placed in patients with impaired kidney function.

In placing and removing amalgam fillings, dentists should use techniques and equipment to minimize the exposure of the patient and the dentist to mercury vapour, and to prevent amalgam waste from being flushed into municipal sewage systems.

Dentists should advise individuals who may have allergic hypersensitivity to mercury to avoid the use of amalgam. In patients who have developed hypersensitivity to amalgam, existing amalgam restorations should be replaced with another material where this is recommended by a physician.

New amalgam fillings should not be placed in contact with existing metal devices in the mouth such as braces.

Dentists should provide their patients with sufficient information to make an informed choice regarding the material used to fill their teeth, including information on the risks and benefits of the material and suitable alternatives.

Dentists should acknowledge the patient's right to decline treatment with any dental material.

Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council

State that amalgam should not be used in children, pregnant women and people with kidney diseases.