ADA Promotes Voluntary Installation and Use of Amalgam Separators

The Back Story
Last year the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced plans for a “Study of a Pretreatment Requirement for Dental Offices,” pointing to the possibility of a national mandate for amalgam separators. The ADA argued that a national pretreatment standard for dental offices was not necessary because dentistry was already acting voluntarily to address environmental impacts from dental amalgam. The ADA pointed out in support of its position that the use of amalgam separators is part of the ADA’s Best Management Practices (BMP). The EPA agreed and concluded that a national standard was not warranted at that time. Following this, EPA proposed an agreement among EPA, ADA and National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) to further promote voluntary compliance with ADA’s BMPs, including the use of amalgam separators.

Dentistry Self-Regulates
A premise of the EPA’s decision not to issue a national pretreatment standard is the willingness of dentists to act voluntarily. It’s important to show that we are making progress to follow the ADA’s BMPs and that voluntary installations of amalgam separators are increasing.

Be Environmentally Responsible
There has been a significant shift in environmental attitudes with a greater demand for green business practices. With more than 77% of our patients practicing some form of regular recycling, they are beginning to take note as to who is environmentally responsible. Let’s demonstrate that dentistry is a profession that goes above and beyond to serve our patients and protect the environment.

Visit [www.ada.org/goto/amalgamseparators](http://www.ada.org/goto/amalgamseparators) for more information on what the ADA is doing to maintain voluntary national compliance and learn how to find the best amalgam separator for your practice.