

**10% of global mercury (340 tons per year)  
is used for dental amalgam fillings.**

## **WHERE DOES DENTAL MERCURY GO?**



80% of the mercury vapor given off by amalgam fillings is absorbed by the lungs and passed to the rest of the body, including the kidney, brain, liver, and other organs. Research also shows that mercury can be passed to the fetus. Several tons of mercury are excreted into the environment from human waste every year as well.

Up to 50% of mercury polluting wastewater is from dental offices that send mercury down the drain. Some of the waste, in the form of sludge/biosolids, becomes fertilizer that pollutes soil with mercury.



3.6 tons of mercury is released to the air each year due to cremation of individuals with amalgam fillings. When individuals with amalgam fillings are buried, mercury is deposited into the soil.

Research shows exposure to mercury poses a health risk to dental workers. A 2019 study shows mercury safety thresholds can be exceeded during dental procedures on amalgam fillings if special precautions are not in place.



For more detailed information and a list of scientific sources, download the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT)'s *Comprehensive Review of Dental Mercury* by scanning the code to the left or visiting [WWW.IAOMT.ORG](http://WWW.IAOMT.ORG) and clicking on "Mercury Facts."

**SAFER ALTERNATIVES EXIST AND ARE FEASIBLE!**

*The IAOMT is an accredited member of UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership.*