

# THE TOXIC EFFECTS OF THE MERCURY IN DENTAL AMALGAM FILLINGS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH

*A FACT SHEET PREPARED BY*

The International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology

[www.iaomt.org](http://www.iaomt.org)

*“For medical reason, amalgam should be eliminated in dental care as soon as possible. As a result, one of our largest sources of mercury in the environment can be eliminated.”*

*--Dr. Maths Berlin, the Dental Material Commission of Sweden, 2003*

## **The Tipping Point is Near!**

### **About IAOMT**

Representing a network of dental, medical, and research professionals with members in North American and affiliated chapters in over fourteen other countries, the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT) has been researching the damage dental mercury inflicts on the environment and humans since the non-profit organization was created in 1984.

### **Brief Overview of Mercury Used in Dentistry**

Millions of dentists around the world routinely use dental amalgam as a filling material to repair decayed teeth. Often referred to as “silver” fillings, amalgam fillings actually consist of 45-55% metallic mercury.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), there are currently over 1,000 tons of mercury in the mouths of Americans, which is more than half of all the mercury being used in the U.S. today. Also according to the EPA, dentistry accounts for 14% of the U.S. domestic usage of mercury annually.

Controversy has surrounded the use of mercury in dentistry since the 1800's, when the neurotoxin was first widely introduced as a filling material. The American Society of Dental Surgeons, the predecessor to the American Dental Association, made its members pledge not to use mercury because of its known toxicity, and in more recent years, government officials, scientists, dentists, consumers, and many others have raised serious concerns about the threats dental mercury poses to humans and to the environment at large.

Today, authorities including the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the European Commission (EC) are actively assessing health risks associated with dental amalgam.

However, the governments of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark have already banned the use of mercury fillings in dentistry, Germany and Canada have limited their use for pregnant women, and France, Finland, and Austria have recommended that alternative dental materials be used for pregnant women.

Meanwhile, scientific studies continue to demonstrate the harm that mercury in dentistry inflicts upon each one of us and our environment.

**For full article and references visit the IAOMT website  
[www.iaomt.org](http://www.iaomt.org) under Featured Articles,  
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