

North American dental professionals' experience demonstrates availability, feasibility, and benefits of mercury-free fillings

To the Secretariat, Minamata Convention on Mercury:

We North American dental professionals know from firsthand experience that dental amalgam is *not* needed in any restorative treatment because:

- Non-mercury alternatives are available: With so many non-mercury filling materials available, we never use amalgam for any patient in our dental practices. Surveys show that, like us, approximately half of American dentists never use dental amalgam despite the high prevalence of dental caries in the United States.^{[ii](#)}
- Non-mercury alternatives are technically and economically feasible: In our dental practices, we have found that non-mercury filling materials and techniques can be used to treat all patients – including challenging cases in people with extensive dental caries, low-income individuals, and children with disabilities.
- Non-mercury alternatives offer health benefits: Non-mercury filling materials prevent mercury exposure to our patients and dental personnel, allow for less tooth destruction than amalgam (which can result in longer survival of the tooth itself), and can last just as long as – or longer than – amalgam.^{[iii](#)}

In light of our experience with these non-mercury alternatives, we support the complete phase out of all amalgam use.

Sincerely,

Dentist or dental hygienist (RDH), listed with her or his U.S. State or Canadian Province

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Dr. Don Jones, Georgia
Dr. Bill Wolfe, Tennessee
Carol Vander Stoep, RDH, Texas
Dr. Bob McBride, California
Dr. Bill Osmunson, Oregon

Dr. James Hardy, Florida
Dr. John Merrill, North Carolina
Dr. Patrick Weimer, Louisiana
Dr. Griffin Cole, Texas
Dr. Don Perman, Oregon
Dr. Robert Stephan, Washington

Dr. Roger Eichmann, Washington

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British Society for Mercury-Free Dentistry

Dr. Zac Cox

[\[i\]](#) U.S. EPA, *Health services industry detailed study* (August 2008).

[\[ii\]](#) World Health Organization, *Future Use of Materials for Dental Restoration* (2011), p.16; Opdam NJ, Bronkhurst EM, Roeters JM, Loomans BA. A retrospective clinical study on longevity of posterior composite and amalgam restorations. *Dent Mater* 2007;23(1):2 -8.

Dr. Jim Redd, Alberta

Dr. Ken Andow, Colorado

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