Inspecting your amalgam separator

Inspection process

- Inspect the separator once a week.
- Make sure pumps are turned off before inspecting the separator.
- Have a flashlight handy to make it easier to check solids levels in the upper and lower canisters.

Upper chamber: Turn the lights off in the room and shine a flashlight through the upper chamber. You should be able to see light coming through.

Seal: Inspect along the seal between the upper and lower chambers to make sure that the upper chamber is not leaking, which could indicate a clog or other issue.

Date: Check the date that the lower canister was last replaced. Even if this canister isn’t full, it should be replaced after one year.

Fullness level: Inspect the level of sediment in the lower collection canister. Shine a light through the canister to see the sediment level. The sediment should be lower than the fill line.

Issues to look for

- **CANISTER CONTENTS OVER FILL LINE**
  The lower canister should be changed before contents reach the fill line to prevent overflow.
  - If the lower canister is full, replace it immediately. It’s best to order a new canister before the lower canister gets full.
  - Check to make sure that solids have not backed up into the upper chamber. If they have, follow the recommended steps in the user manual.

- **EVIDENCE OF LEAKAGE**
  Watch for residue along the seal between the upper and lower canisters or drips below the separator, which can indicate a leak. Using proper vacuum line cleaners helps avoid leakage.

  ✋ Dental wastewater contains hazardous substances. Separator spills should be considered hazardous and handled accordingly.

  → Call your service rep immediately. You may need to replace the unit.
  → Use a vacuum line cleaner that is non-foaming and has a pH between 6 and 8.

- **SOLIDS IN UPPER CHAMBER**
  Solids in the upper chamber indicate that the system may be in bypass, allowing amalgam into the sewer system.

  A little solid residue on the walls of the chamber is normal. If you shine a flashlight through the upper chamber and the light does not come through, there is likely solids buildup in the chamber.

  → Call your service rep as soon as possible for advice on next steps.

Document each inspection and any follow-up action in the separator inspection log.