



CLIMATE AND
POLLUTION
AGENCY

Norwegian experiences on phasing out the use of dental amalgam

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Phasing out the use of dental amalgam

- **Work towards reducing and eliminating the use of amalgam as tooth restoring material started in the early 1990's.**
- **The Norwegian Health Authorities made an inventory on practices in dental clinics in 1998.**
- **Based on that, guidelines were introduced in 1991 (updated in 2003) for dentists for the use of dental filling materials.**
- **Guidance (1991-2007);**
 - **amalgam should not be the first choice for dental fillings**
 - **use of amalgam should be limited as much as possible in consideration to the environment and possible adverse health effects**

Further action

- **The Environmental Authorities conducted an impact assessment in 2005 on a possible general ban on the use of mercury in products:**
 - **Identification of areas where a ban could be introduced without major problems and areas of use in which there will be a need for time-limited or permanent exemptions,**
 - **Conclusions regarding dental amalgam;**
 - **Alternatives to dental amalgam, like composites, have good technical properties.**
 - **A ban will ensure total phase out.**
- **A general ban on the use of mercury in products, which includes prohibition on the use of dental amalgam, was introduced in 2008**

Phase out period

- **Exemptions for three years for**
 - amalgam for use in dental treatment of patients who must be treated under general anaesthesia or
 - patients who are allergic to ingredients in other dental fillings
- **Experiences in the three year period;**
 - no complaints have been sent to either the Health or the Environmental authorities,
 - no questioning about the expired exemptions.
- **Adverse reaction unit on dental biomaterials (University of Bergen)**

Experiences in Norway

- **Alternatives used in Norway are composites and glass ionomers**
- **Best practices**
 - Oral health prevention of caries
 - Minimal intervention
 - Education of dentists
- **Success factors**
 - Change of attitude by dentists
 - Allowance for a phase out period
- **Barriers**
 - Older dentists 'cling' to amalgam
 - Development of more durable alternative material

Thank you for your attention

Relevant web sites for information;

Norwegian Directorate of Health www.helsedirektoratet.no

Climate and Pollution Agency www.klif.no

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