

# Survey on the Use of Dental Amalgam - Market Survey on Mercury Added Products

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, through the Ministry of Planning and Development, is developing strategies to reduce releases of mercury (a chemical element that is toxic to human health and the environment).

Despite being toxic, mercury has been commonly used worldwide in a variety of applications due to its useful properties. Most commonly, mercury has historically been used in several useful products such as dental amalgam, among others, though mercury-free alternatives have become more common in recent years.

In order to better inform the development of national strategies to ensure the phase-out of mercury-added products, your cooperation and participation in a market survey is kindly requested.

CONFIDENTIALITY- All survey responses will be collated and analysed to inform the development of a national market survey report. Individual company/respondent's data will not be shared publicly.

REVISED Survey close date: 9 March 2022.

Approximate time needed to complete survey: 15 - 20 minutes.

If you experience any issues completing the survey or have any queries, please email Ms. Tahlia Ali Shah, Independent Consultant recruited to conduct the market survey at: [tahlia.alishah15@gmail.com](mailto:tahlia.alishah15@gmail.com)

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\* Required

1. Email Address \*

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2. Full name \*

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3. Name of dental practice in which you operate primarily. \*

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4. Please indicate the number of years that you have been practicing in the dental sector in Trinidad and Tobago. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- < 5 years professional experience
- 5 - 10 years professional experience
- 10 - 20 years professional experience
- over 20 years professional experience

5. As a professional in the dental sector in Trinidad and Tobago, in which setting do you currently operate? (Please tick all that apply) \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Public Sector
- Private Clinic/ Hospital
- Personal Private Practice

6. Have you received training in the use of dental amalgam (silver amalgam) fillings for dental restoration? (Yes/No - If Yes, please indicate the approximate year in which you received the most recent training) \*
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7. Do you use dental amalgam (silver amalgam) in your operations? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes (applies to whether you actively use dental amalgam or have it in stock)
- No     *Skip to question 17*

*Skip to question 8*

## Section B: Dental Amalgam- Operational Information

8. What type(s) of dental amalgam do you have in stock/ typically use in your operations? (Select all that apply) \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Pre-capsulated (single-dental restoration capsules of pre-dosed amalgam)
- Powdered alloy and liquid elemental mercury (requires manually taking out needed amounts and mixing)

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

9. If applicable, indicate the quantities of pre-capsulated dental amalgam purchased in the past three (3) years.

Separate amounts per year (2019, 2020, 2021) if available

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10. If applicable, indicate the quantities of dental amalgam (in the form of powdered alloy and liquid elemental mercury) purchased in the past three (3) years.

Separate amounts per year (2019, 2020, 2021) if available

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- 11. If you have purchased another type of mercury dental amalgam (other than pre-capsulated or powdered alloy and liquid), please indicate the type and quantities purchased in the past three (3) years.

Separate amounts per year (2019, 2020, 2021) if available

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- 12. How many years have you been using dental amalgam (pre-capsulated, powdered and/or other mercury-added amalgam) in your operations? \*

Mark only one oval.

- < 5 years
- 5 - 10 years
- 10 - 20 years
- over 20 years

- 13. Apart from you, do any other persons (e.g. assistant, trainee etc.) assist in the preparation of dental amalgam fillings? If yes, please state how many persons. \*

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14. Based on the total number of dental filling procedures (both dental amalgam and mercury-free fillings) that have been conducted by your operations over the past three (3) years, how often was dental amalgam utilized? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Never
- Rarely (Approximately less than 10% of dental filling procedures)
- Sometimes (Approximately 10 - 40% of dental filling procedures)
- Often (Approximately 40 - 70% of dental filling procedures)
- Regularly (over 70% of dental filling procedures)
- Very Often (over 90% of dental filling procedures)

15. Have you ever experienced any issue(s) in administering dental amalgam fillings? If yes, please provide details to explain your answer. \*

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16. Are there any instances in which you prefer the use of dental amalgam to a mercury-free alternative such as composite filling? Kindly provide details to support your answer. \*

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**Awareness**

17. How many years have you been using mercury-free dental fillings (e.g. composite fillings) in your operations? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- < 5 years
- 5 - 10 years
- 10 - 20 years
- over 20 years
- Not applicable

18. Have you ever experienced any issue(s) in administering mercury-free fillings (e.g. composite fillings)? If yes, please provide details to explain your answer. \*

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19. In general, how do you compare the dental amalgams and mercury-free alternative fillings? Please select which you prefer to use in terms of the following criteria. \*

Mark only one oval per row.

	Dental Amalgam	Mercury-free alternative e.g. composite filling	No preference
Safety for use by patient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cost	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Durability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of application by dentist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effectiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Market availability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability from suppliers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of disposal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Do you typically inform your patients about the composition of dental restoration materials? \*

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, always
- Sometimes
- Only if asked
- Not usually

21. Please indicate your level of awareness on the potential issues (to the health of patients, dental practitioners and/or the environment) posed by mercury present in dental amalgam. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Completely unaware of any potential mercury issues with dental amalgam
- Only to a minor extent- I have heard of the mercury in dental amalgams being an issue
- I am aware that dental amalgams cause potential health and environmental issues, and is currently being phased down globally
- I am aware of the Minamata Convention on Mercury's aims to phase down amalgam use

22. Do you see any barriers to phasing out mercury dental amalgam in the national dental sector? If yes, please elaborate.

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23. In your opinion, when do you think that the dental sector in Trinidad and Tobago will be ready to phase out the use of mercury dental amalgam?

*Mark only one oval.*

- Within the next year (By 2023)
- Within the next 3-5 years
- Within the next 5-10 years
- In the next 10 years or later
- Unsure

24. If you have any further comments on the use of dental amalgam in the dental sector or on the promotion of dental health/dental amalgam awareness in Trinidad and Tobago, please detail here:

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**Thank you for your participation!**

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