



# Are Mercury Fillings Finally Going Away?

By Karen Larré, *Truly Alive* Publisher

*From a posting on the Consumers for Dental Choice website, 4/5/11, the following except was taken:*

U.S. government calls for the phase-out of amalgam!

In an extraordinary development that will change the global debate about amalgam, the United States government has announced that it supports a “phase down, with the goal of eventual phase out by all parties, of mercury amalgam.” This statement – a radical reversal of its former position...is part of the U.S. government’s submission for the upcoming third round of negotiations for the world mercury treaty.\*

While couched in diplomatic hedging (remember it is still early in the negotiations), this new U.S. position makes three significant breakthroughs for the mercury-free dentistry movement:

The U.S. calls for the phase-out of amalgam ultimately and recommends actions to “phase down” its use immediately. Incredibly, the government adopted three actions that the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry and Consumers for Dental Choice proposed at the negotiating session in Chiba, Japan. Our key ally, The Mercury Policy Project, laid the groundwork for this success at a World Health Organization meeting in 2009!

The U.S. speaks up for protecting children and the unborn from amalgam, recommending that the nations “educate patients and parents in order to protect children and fetuses.”

The U.S. stands up for the human right of every patient and parent to make educated decisions about amalgam.

What does this mean? Our position – advocating the phase-out of amalgam – is now the mainstream, because the U.S. government supports it. Who is the outlier now? It’s the pro-mercury faction, represented by the World Dental Federation and the American Dental Association. With the U.S. continuing its leadership role in this treaty, we will broadcast the U.S. position to other governments around the world, encouraging them to support amalgam “phase downs” leading to phase-outs not only globally, but within each of their countries.

We applaud the U.S. government, but tough work lies ahead. For example, we must demonstrate to the world that the available alternatives – such as composites and the adhesive materials used in mercury-free restorations – can be economically effective and will increase access to dental care, particularly in developing countries.

For now though, let’s mark this watershed in the mercury-free dentistry movement. The debate has shifted from “whether to end amalgam” to “how to end amalgam.”

Charles G. Brown,

*National Counsel, Consumers for Dental Choice  
President, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry*

The full text of the U.S. submission is available at:

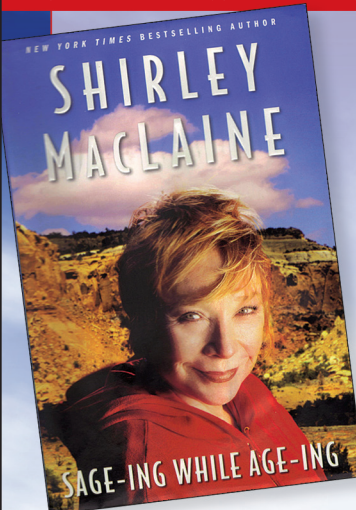
<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/INC3/United%20States.pdf>

What is the only metal that is a liquid at room temperature and vaporizes very easily at body temperature? What metal is the second most bio-incompatible, naturally occurring element on earth? What metal comprises approximately 50% of the “silver” fillings in your mouth? The answer is..MERCURY.

Mercury before it is placed into the mouth is a hazardous toxin in the environment. The scrap amalgam which is removed from the mouth cannot be thrown away in the trash, or the dentist is subject to a \$10,000 fine by the Environmental Protection Agency! Instead, the scrap is considered a toxic waste and must be removed by a hazardous waste company.

*Publisher’s notation: Those of us who have been aware of the dangers of amalgam (mercury) fillings have understood the urgency of stopping the placement of them in anyone’s mouth, but most especially vulnerable populations such as pregnant women, children, the elderly and the immuno-suppressed, for a long time. We are heartened by the U.S. government’s shift in position from support of the amalgam-producing industry and the unenlightened dental associations, to one of protection of the dental consumer.*

## SILVER FILLINGS ARE APPROXIMATELY 50% MERCURY!

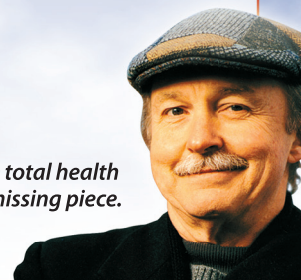


*“I was fortunate to meet and be helped by Dr. Bill Wolfe... and I urge you, dear reader, if you are having tooth problems, to go to his website at [www.drwolfe.com](http://www.drwolfe.com).”*

– Shirley MacLaine  
Academy Award Winning  
Movie Actress

*Dentistry is always a piece of the total health puzzle –sometimes a very vital missing piece.*

**Bill Wolfe, D.D.S.**  
[www.drwolfe.com](http://www.drwolfe.com)



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