

# mercury

## in medical and industrial devices

Mercury is an added **constituent** found in some medical devices and is typically safe while contained in the device. **However**, if broken or mishandled, the mercury released can be toxic when **inhaled or ingested, or through direct contact with the skin**



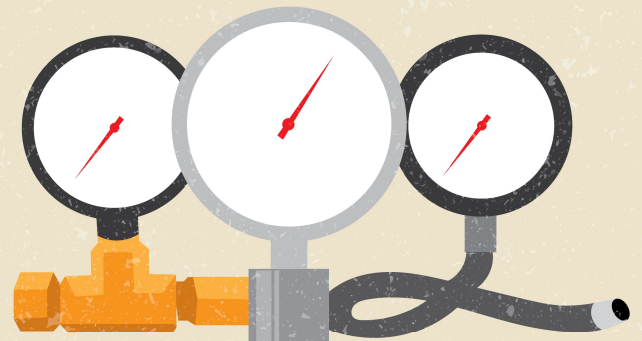
Mercury dental amalgam (also commonly known as “silver fillings”) is **still being used** by some Caribbean dentists

Dentists, nurses and patients can be exposed to mercury when placing, adjusting or removing these fillings



Intact mercury dental amalgam does not pose a significant threat but improper disposal of residues is a public health and environmental concern

Mercury-free dental amalgam fillings are available



Mercury is also found in some barometers, pressure valves, manometers and hygrometers **BUT mercury-free alternatives** are now readily available

Visit the Global Mercury Partnership Website and [www.bcrc-caribbean.org](http://www.bcrc-caribbean.org) for more information on available alternatives



The Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean)

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