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“We all have an obligation to protect our environment. To ignore our obligation is to ignore our future, and our successors' future.

The EnviroStars Program offers a way to demonstrate to our community that sound business practices can go hand in hand with sound environmental practices “

Dr. Patricia Weiss

Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Weiss’s dental office for recently being upgraded to a **5-star** rating as an EnviroStars business. The EnviroStar program recognizes businesses that properly manage and reduce hazardous waste. By handling their hazardous and solid waste in an environmentally responsible manner, Dr. Weiss is setting an excellent example of environmental stewardship within the community.

There is a variety of hazardous waste generated by dental offices such as amalgam used for fillings, x-ray film fixative, lead foils, and cleaning solutions.

Dr. Weiss took a proactive approach for hazardous waste management by purchasing an amalgam separator, which prevents small particles of amalgam from entering the wastewater. The office also collects amalgam waste from extracted teeth and chairside traps, fixative from the x-ray unit and has these disposed through licensed hazardous waste vendor. Lead from x-ray film packaging and aprons are recycled through a local hazardous waste vendor too.



From left to right:
Heather Burgess, Dr. Weiss and Brenda Bary.

Other ways the office is helping the environment is by storing and containing wastes by using best management practices. They have written procedures for disposing of various waste, they use secondary containers, and have spill absorbent materials. The staff discusses waste management and reduction issues at staff meetings. Dr. Weiss actively promotes the EnviroStars program within her dental workshops and refers other dentists when she feels they may benefit from the program.

All of these steps are significant in reducing the amount of hazardous waste entering the environment.