

# PROTECT your children's future



Global Mercury Project



Less Mercury, More Gold and Better Health

# MERCURY IN GOLD SHOPS



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Less Mercury, More Gold and Better Health

**Retorted gold contains residual mercury that was not burned off**



*If the amalgam is not well burned it contains up to 20% residual mercury*

**Gold must not be melted in places with food and people**



*This fume hood has no external vent and is contaminating this home*

## **Retorted gold still has mercury**

**This residual mercury is released when gold is melted in gold shops**

**Dealers melt gold to remove impurities**



*Gold dealer melting gold under the miner's supervision*

## **Children are in danger**

**People poisoned with mercury can show:**

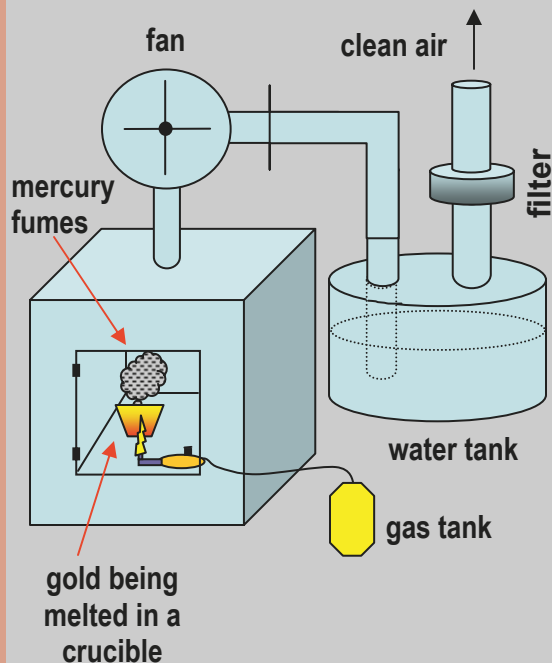
*loss of teeth, loss of memory, fatigue, cough, madness, tremors, kidney problems*



*Children are very sensitive to mercury vapor*

**Fume hoods are built with water tanks and air filters to contain mercury**

*Air filters are made with activated charcoal and potassium iodide solution*



**Workers are poisoned with mercury vapor when gold is melted**

**Gold shops must be well ventilated**



*Dealer melts gold with a blow torch*

## Clean the air

**Bad fume hoods do not provide safe environment for workers and people living nearby**



*Use retorts or a well designed fume hood with filter to eliminate mercury vapor*

## People can be very intoxicated

**People living near gold shops can be seriously poisoned with mercury**



*Children must not play around gold shop*

**Dust masks  
do not  
protect**

*Dust masks  
collect mercury  
from air*

*When the worker  
re-uses a dirty  
mask, he becomes  
more poisoned*



**Gold can be  
melted in a  
retort**

*Mercury vapor is  
not emitted, but  
recycled*

*Use a blow torch  
with high  
temperature to  
melt gold*



**Melt gold in a ventilated place**

**Masks with  
mercury  
filters protect  
the workers,  
but not the  
public outside**



*Appropriate fume  
hoods with air  
cleaners and filters  
are also needed*



**Use appropriate fume hoods**

**When melting  
gold, a fume  
hood must  
have air  
cleaner  
(water tank),  
carbon filter  
and a glass  
window**



*Gases coming from the fume  
hood can be cleaned in water  
tanks*