A Q&A With Kevin McKay of DDS Refining

Tell us about yourself and DDS Refining.

DDS Refining is a precious metal refining company specializing in processing gold and porcelain-fused-to-metal (PFM) scrap from the dental industry. We do work with other industries that use precious metal alloys, but the dental industry is where our primary focus is. I am currently the vice president of sales and operations and have held that position since 2009. I started in the dental refining business in 2001 and have given countless lectures on the topic since then. I have also been published several times in major dental publications.

What is the most significant change in the refining industry in the last 5 years?

The most significant change has to be the inundation of “cash-for-gold” operations in response to gold reaching new heights in value a few years ago. The consumer marketplace was flooded with unscrupulous cash-for-gold dealers who preyed on the uninformed general public. Coincidentally, patients suddenly discovered that the value of their gold was much more than the scrap when they opt for the “weigh and pay” approach. This is key, because we can then take a small representative sample of the bar to perform the assay. When dentists send their scrap metal to DDS Refining, we log in each lot of scrap individually and assign it a unique lot number for easy tracking. We then prepare the scrap to be smelted by adding several chemical substances to it. The addition of borax and soda ash effectively creates a “holding slag,” where all the impurities that don’t burn off are captured when they separate from the metal. Copper is usually added as well, primarily to help alloy the different metals. When done properly, the smelting process provides us with a homogeneous bar that is free of anything nonmetallic. This is key, because we can then take a small representative sample of the bar to perform the assay.

Why is weighing and paying unfavorable to the dentist?

What most dentists do not realize is that they are typically getting less than 50% of the actual value of their scrap when they opt for the “weigh and pay” approach. Going to find out the precise elemental breakdown of the metal contained in the scrap. The rigorous technical process of smelting and assaying undertaken during refining is the only way to accurately determine the full value of a scrap lot.

Can you elaborate on how and why the refining process provides more accurate valuations?

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How can dentists best capitalize on their scrap metal?

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In summary, no one can guarantee what the future will hold for the precious metals market. The only guarantee that you can take to the bank is to use a reputable precious metals refiner to get the best return for your scrap metal.
Capitalize on your scrap metal with the leader in precious metal refining

It’s easy to collect
No need to separate. Save all gold and PFM crowns and solids together.

Don’t have your scrap “weighed and paid”
We use state-of-the-art smelting and assaying techniques to ensure accurate results.

Payment is simple
We offer several payment options, including cash, check, wire, or gold and silver bullion.

Turn your scrap jar into a windfall. Call today!
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