

Dental Sealants

Why get sealants?

Dental sealants are placed to help prevent tooth decay on your child's teeth. This has been proven time and time again in scientific literature.

Posterior (back) teeth have anatomical grooves on the biting surface that increase chewing efficiency. These anatomical grooves can be smaller than the diameter of your child's toothbrush bristles. This can set up a very bad scenario!

The anatomical grooves on children's back teeth can capture and retain food particles as foodstuffs are smashed into the grooves while chewing food. Bacteria invade the retained food packed into these grooves. If the grooves are smaller than your child's toothbrush bristles, this food and bacteria are retained in the grooves of these teeth even after vigorous brushing.

The acids produced by these trapped bacteria are what cause cavities. As the teeth cavitate, there is more room for additional food to be packed into the tooth and the problem is now made worse.

Sealants protect teeth by closing up the anatomical grooves preventing food from being crammed into them.

How long do sealants last?

When sealants are placed in this office it is our goal to have them last 5 years. The sealants placed on teeth in this office are guaranteed for five years. They are carefully checked at every recall appointment and if they have been damaged during chewing of food, they will be replaced at no charge. The good news is....sealants can last much longer, and usually last well into adulthood.

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What are dental sealants?

A sealant is a uniform coating of composite resin that fills in the small grooves on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth. Sealants are made of the same white materials that we use to fill cavities after they occur!

The grooves of the teeth are carefully cleaned and dried prior to placement of the resin. The resin is flowed into the grooves of the teeth and then hardened with a blue light.

The treated teeth are now less likely to get cavities as food and bacteria are now easily cleaned off the chewing surface.



Before...

After...

