

Dental Sealants

Keeping your kid's smile healthy!



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SEALANTS

1

What Are Sealants?

They are clear or tooth-colored coatings that fill the grooves of back permanent teeth (molars) and help keep out food and germs that cause cavities.

2

How Are Sealants Put On?

The tops of the back teeth are cleaned, then the sealant material is painted on the tooth and quickly hardens. Placing sealants is painless, safe, and only takes a few minutes.

3

Can Cavities Occur Beneath Sealants?

Dental sealants prevent cavities from getting the food they need to live. As a result, cavities won't grow, even if some germs are trapped under the sealant.

4

How Long Will Sealants Last?

Research shows that dental sealants can last for many years, and will protect your child's teeth through their most cavity-prone years. Once sealants are placed on the teeth, they may be checked again during dental visits, and more sealant will be applied if missing.

5

Will Sealants Make The Teeth Feel Different?

A dental sealant may be slightly noticeable until normal chewing wears it into place. Since sealants are very thin and only fill the grooves, they will not cause a change in how your child bites and chews.

How can I get sealants for my child?

Follow these simple steps to have your child participate in the school sealant program.

Step 1

Complete the consent form and return it to school.

Step 2

Dental professionals will come to your child's school to screen your child's teeth. They will apply sealants to qualifying students while at school. If your child has dental insurance through Medicaid or a private company, they will be billed directly. There is **no charge** to your family to participate.

Step 3

After sealants, make sure your child's teeth are brushed with a fluoride toothpaste twice a day.

HOW CAN TOOTH DECAY BE PREVENTED?

- 1 Brush with fluoride toothpaste and floss daily.
- 2 Drink fluoridated water.
- 3 Have dental sealants applied.
- 4 Eat a well-balanced diet and avoid sugary foods and drinks.
- 5 Visit the dentist regularly.

HEALTHY TEETH HELP CHILDREN:

- Do better in school
- Stay healthier and have fewer sick days
- Feel better about themselves

Before Sealant



Food and bacteria become trapped in grooves and pits.

After Sealant



Grooves and pits are protected from bacteria and cavities.