

WHY DENTAL SEALANTS MIGHT BE THE RIGHT CHOICE



A GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN



Dentistry
for Children and Adolescents
PEDIATRIC SPECIALISTS



We don't need to tell you why it is important to keep up with a healthy oral hygiene regimen for your child, mainly because we've mentioned it many times before! What we haven't discussed, at least at length, is what to do if those healthy habits still aren't getting the job done.



Even if you brush regularly, you can still get cavities

According to a recent CDC Study, nearly one fourth of all children aged two to five had cavities in their primary teeth. This isn't just a problem for kids neglecting to brush. It can also affect children who brush regularly.

One of the biggest problem areas for cavities, even those who regularly brush, are the narrow pits in the back molars. Those pits can be difficult to completely clean, and are the perfect hiding place for food particles and bacteria.

It doesn't take long for that bacteria to begin to damage the tooth and develop a cavity. That can develop into an even bigger problem since those areas are just as difficult to see as they are to brush.



Are there any solutions?

One possible solution that has proven to be quite effective and has become more popular over the years are dental sealants.

As you might imagine, a sealant is a plastic like material that is placed over the pits and grooves of the chewing surface of your child's teeth. The sealant acts as a protective coating over those hard to reach and clean pits of the tooth, preventing those food particles to get lodged initially.

Dental sealants are very safe, and fairly cost effective compared to the dental work that might develop in cavity prone teeth.

Another benefit of the sealants is that they are capable of lasting several years, up to 10 in some cases. They still require regular dental check ups, and it is still very important to maintain a healthy oral hygiene routine.

While dental sealants do wonders to protect hard to clean areas of a tooth, they do not, however, work to prevent gum disease such as gingivitis. Brushing twice a day and flossing remain to be best practices to achieve overall dental health.





How difficult is the procedure?

Applying a dental sealant is a very simple and painless process. Your dentist will first apply a gel to the tooth to serve as a bond for the sealant.

They will then apply the sealant to the tooth, followed by exposure to a special light to harden the sealant to the tooth. And that's it!

After it is applied, the sealant can last several years if properly cared for. Your dentist will continue to monitor the condition of the sealant on your child's subsequent dental appointments.

Can the sealant be placed over a cavity?

Sealants can be placed over a cavity to prevent further damage. The sealant actually seals off the entire area of the tooth, creating an impenetrable barrier between the tooth and the coating.

The only concern would arise from the sealant wearing down, which is why keeping up with regular dental appointments is recommended so your dentist can monitor the progress.

Are sealants covered by insurance?

Insurance coverage will vary on a case to case basis. Some policies do cover the procedure, but not all do. Check with your provider for complete coverage information.



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Have more questions?



We love to hear from you! If you have any other questions about dental sealants, or would like to schedule an appointment to see if your child could benefit from having a dental sealant, give us a call today!

Ensure your child is receiving the best dental care by selecting the right provider for your family's needs. At Dentistry for Children and Adolescents, we deliver oral health care that is comprehensive, accessible and family-centered for children and adolescents.

To learn more about us and the services we can provide your family, call either one of our locations:

Creve Coeur, MO at 314-567-1122

St. Charles, MO at 636-946-5225



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