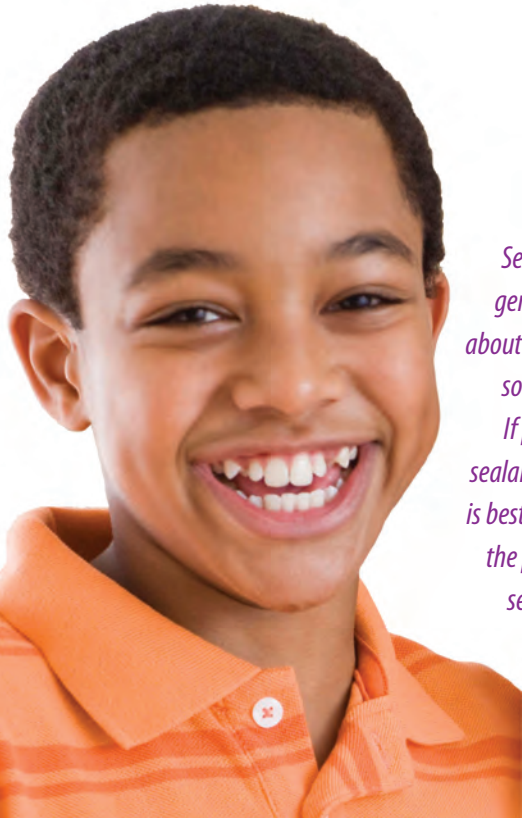


Do Sealants Last a Lifetime?

Teeth that have sealants need to be checked once a year to make sure that the sealant is in place.



Sealants will generally last about five years; some longer. If part of the sealant is lost, it is best to replace the part of the sealant that is missing.

Will Insurance Pay for Dental Sealants?

Yes...

Most Insurance Pays for Sealants

How are Sealants Applied?

It is very easy to do.

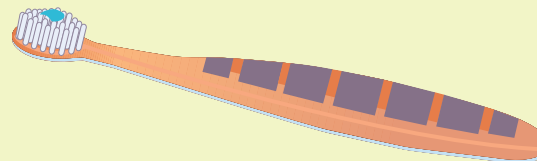
A child may be asked to brush their teeth using a toothbrush or their teeth may be cleaned using a special toothpaste. Then a special gel is put on the grooves and is washed off with water. The tooth is dried and then the sealant is placed on the chewing surface and usually a special light is used to harden the sealant.

What Color are Sealants?

Sealants may be clear, white or tinted. Most people will not be able to see the sealant when a child smiles or talks.

Sealants are recommended by the:

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- American Dental Association
- American Dental Hygienists' Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



Paid for (or in part) through a grant from the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA).

Sealants ...for Healthy Smiles



<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Family/dental/index.html>
www.mouthwiseflorida.com

What Is A Sealant?

A sealant is a thin plastic coating that keeps food and germs out of the chewing surfaces of teeth.

UNSEALED TOOTH



Dental photo courtesy of Edward F. Zapert, D.M.D.

Which teeth are sealed?

Back teeth, they are known as molars and premolars. These teeth must last a lifetime. They help us chew our food.

SEALED TOOTH



When Should Teeth Be Sealed?

A sealant needs to be placed as soon as the permanent molar appears in the mouth.

When do these permanent teeth usually appear in the mouth?

Start looking for permanent teeth when the child is...

5 years old!

NEW MOLAR COMING IN



Dental photo courtesy of Edward F. Zapert, D.M.D.



PROTECTING PERMANENT TEETH

- Seven out of ten children and teenagers have at least one cavity on a permanent tooth.
- Nine out of ten cavities are found on the chewing surfaces of back teeth (molars).
- Dental sealants can help prevent permanent teeth from getting cavities.

Who applies the dental sealant?

A dental provider (dentist or a registered dental hygienist) may provide dental sealants.

Sealants may be applied by dental assistants who have received formal training and are under the indirect supervision of a dentist.

Sealants may be provided in private dental offices, county health department dental clinics or in some school-based programs.