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Dental Sealant Question & Answer

Why do molars need sealants?

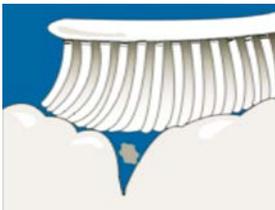


The top of a molar has pits and grooves on it. These grooves can trap food and bacteria which cause cavities.

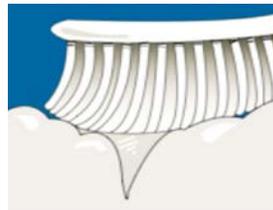


A dental sealant fills these grooves. It helps keep food out and makes it easier to keep the tooth clean.

How do dental sealants prevent decay?



Toothbrush bristles cannot clean out the food and bacteria trapped in the grooves.



Dental sealants fill the pits and grooves to prevent food and bacteria from getting stuck.

How long do sealants last?

Sealants can last up to 10 years with good care. This includes proper brushing and flossing as well as limiting sugar in your child's diet. We recommend that your child avoid chewing hard things such as ice, hard candy, corn nuts, etc. to avoid fracturing the material.

Does it hurt to have sealants placed?

Getting a sealant placed is painless and takes about 5 minutes per tooth. No shots are necessary. Normal brushing and diet can be resumed right after sealant place. There is no recovery time or soreness.

Who should get sealants on their teeth?

Children should be checked by their dentist to see if they would benefit from sealant placement. Typically, children should have sealants placed on their 6-year and 12-year molars soon after they erupt.

How much do sealants cost?

Placing a sealant on a tooth is less expensive than placing a filling. Your insurance may cover part or all of sealant placement. Check with our office staff to learn more!

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