



Sealants

What are sealants?

Sealants protect the surfaces of teeth with grooves and pits, especially the chewing surfaces of back teeth where a majority of cavities in children are found. Made of clear or white plastic, sealants are applied to the teeth to help keep them cavity-free.

How do sealants work?

Even if your child brushes and flosses carefully, it is difficult--many times impossible-- to clean the tiny grooves and pits on certain teeth. Food and bacteria build up in these depressions, placing your child in danger of tooth decay. Sealants "seal out" food and plaque, thus reducing the risk of decay.

How long do sealants last?

Research shows that sealants can last for many years. Our intent is that your child's cavity prone areas are protected throughout the most cavity-prone years. If your child has good oral hygiene and avoids biting hard objects, sealants will last longer. Dr. Adams can easily replace or repair a lost or damaged sealant. Dr. Adams is unique in that he will replace any lost sealant for up to two years at no charge.

What is the treatment like?

The application of a sealant is quick and comfortable. It takes only one visit. Dr. Adams and his assistants condition and dry the tooth, apply the sealant, and then allow it to harden.

How much does it cost?

The treatment is very affordable, especially in view of the valuable decay protection it offers your child. Sealants are normally covered by your dental insurance. Talk to our office coordinator about the exact cost of sealants for your child.

Which teeth should be sealed?

The teeth most at risk of decay (those with the deepest pits and grooves)--and therefore most in need of sealants--are the six-year and twelve-year molars. But any tooth with grooves or pits, even baby teeth, may benefit from the protection of sealants. We recommend sealants on premolars with deep grooves and on those of our patients undergoing orthodontics.

If my child has sealants, are brushing and flossing still important?

Absolutely!! Sealants are only one step in the plan to keep your child cavity-free for a lifetime. Brushing, flossing, and regular professional cleanings and exams are still essential to a bright, healthy, cavity-free smile.

