

Does insurance pay for sealants?

Many insurance companies pay for sealants. Check with your company for details.

How long do sealants last?

Sealants can last up to 10 years. But they need to be checked at regular dental check-ups to make sure they are not chipped or worn away. The dentist can repair sealants by adding more sealant material.

How much do sealants cost?

Sealing one tooth cost less than filling one tooth.

Having sealants put on healthy teeth now will save you money in the long run by avoiding fillings, crowns, or caps used to fix decayed teeth.

By the most important reason for getting sealants is to avoid tooth decay.

Healthy teeth can last a lifetime.

What if a small cavity is accidentally covered by a sealant?

The decay will not spread because it is sealed off from its food and germ supply.



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Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
Dental Prevention & Clinical Support Center

Seal Out Dental Decay



Sealants + Fluoride =
**Maximum Protection
Against Cavities**

What are dental sealants?

Sealants are thin, plastic coatings painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth.

Sealants can be put on at dental offices, clinics, and sometimes schools. Getting sealants put on is simple and painless. Sealants are painted on as a liquid and quickly harden to form a shield over the tooth.

Sealants are clear or tinted. Tinted sealants are easier to see.

Why get sealants?

By covering the chewing surfaces of the molars, sealants keep out the germs and food that cause decay.

What caused decay?

Germs in the mouth change the sugar in food to acid. The acid can eat a cavity in the tooth. The decay has to be cleaned out by drilling and then the tooth has to be filled.

Of course a healthy tooth is the best tooth. So it is important to prevent decay. That's why sealants are so important.

Why do back teeth decay so easily?

The chewing surfaces of back teeth are rough and uneven because they have small pits and grooves. Food and germs can get stuck in the pits and stay there a long time because toothbrush bristles cannot brush them away.

Sealants protect the chewing surfaces



Should sealants also be put on baby teeth?

Your dentist might think it is a good idea especially if your child's baby teeth have deep pits and grooves.

Baby teeth play an important role in holding the correct spacing for permanent teeth – so it is important to keep baby teeth healthy so they don't fall out early.

Who should get sealants?

- Children should get sealants on their permanent molars as soon as the teeth come in before decay attacks the teeth.
- The first permanent molars – called “6 year molars” – come in between the ages of 5 and 7.
- The second permanent molars – “12 year molars” – come in when a child is between 11 and 14 years old.
- The other teeth with pits and grooves-called “premolars” or bicuspid” – right in front of the molars, also may need to be sealed.
- Teenagers and young adults without decay or fillings in their molars also may get sealants.

Teeth before sealant



Same tooth after sealant

