

Alcona Health Center Dental Sealants Frequently Asked Questions



What are dental sealants?

Dental sealants are thin, tooth-colored coatings that are applied to the chewing surface of back teeth, usually molars. Sealants help prevent cavities by blocking out deep grooves in teeth.

Which teeth should have sealants?

The teeth that benefit the most from sealants are molars. The best time to have molars sealed is soon after they are completely in the mouth, before a cavity has a chance to form. The first set of molars come in around age 6 and the second set around age 12.

How are sealants applied?

Sealants are applied in an easy process:

- 1. A dental professional may clean the tooth with a special toothpaste first.*
- 2. A cleansing gel is applied for about 10-20 seconds and then rinsed off.*
- 3. A bonding agent may be applied.*
- 4. The sealant is applied and then hardened with a bright blue light.*

What are the benefits of sealants?

Sealants prevent cavities by keeping food and bacteria from sticking in the deep grooves and pits of molars. Preventing cavities reduces the need for more expensive dental treatments such as fillings, crowns, and root canals. Sealants are an economical way to keep teeth healthy for years to come.

Will sealants make their teeth feel different?

A dental sealant may be slightly noticeable until normal chewing wears it into place. Since sealants are very thin and only fill the pits and fissures, they will not cause a change in the bite.

Are sealants expensive?

If your child has dental coverage, then the sealants will be billed for those services provided. If there is no insurance, then you can apply for the Sliding Fee Program (income based) and get our Sliding Fee discount or pay a regular price of \$69.00 per tooth.

Are dental sealants safe?

Yes! Tens of thousands of children across the United States and in other countries have had their teeth successfully sealed.

How can tooth decay be prevented?

- 1. Floss and brush teeth daily*
- 2. Drink fluoridated water and use fluoride toothpaste*
- 3. Have dental sealants applied*
- 4. Eat a well-balanced diet and avoid sugary/acidic foods and drinks*
- 5. Visit the dentist regularly*