

Dental Sealants Prevent Cavities in Children

Seal away tooth decay with dental sealants

Dental sealants are thin plastic coatings that a dental provider paints onto the chewing surfaces of the back teeth. The sealant is a liquid that quickly hardens to form a protective shield over the tooth. Applying the sealant is simple, painless and only takes a few minutes.

Dental Sealants Protect Teeth

The back teeth, or molars, are the teeth most likely to get cavities. Food gets trapped in the grooves on the chewing surface of the teeth. Sometimes it is hard for children to brush their back teeth and reach tiny particles of food that are trapped. That's why dental sealants are important. They prevent these food particles from getting trapped in the first place.

Dental sealants are applied in dental offices, clinics, and sometimes even in schools. In Maryland, dentists and dental hygienists can apply sealants in school settings. Check with your child's school to find out if they have a dental sealant program.

Dental Sealants Save Money.

The cost of applying a dental sealant on a child's permanent molar is much less than the cost of filling a cavity.

Who needs sealants?

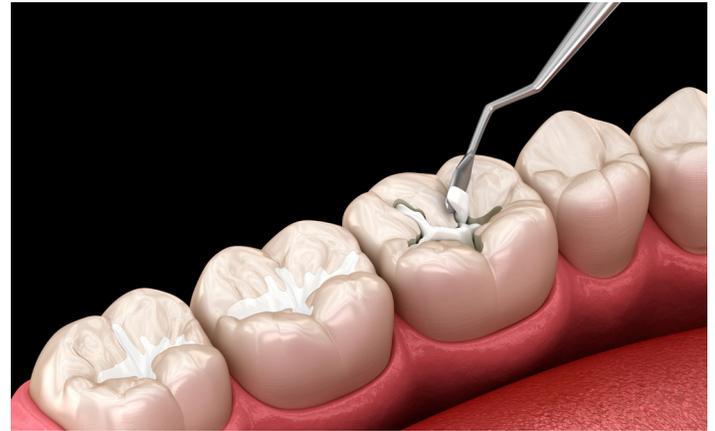
All children with permanent molar teeth.

When should children get dental sealants?

First between ages 5 and 7, when their first permanent molars come in. The second sealant application should occur between ages 11 and 14, when their second permanent molars come in.

How long do sealants last?

Sealants protect teeth if they stay in place. They hold up well against everyday chewing, flossing, and brushing. Get them checked by a Dentist or dental hygienist at least once a year.



Resources



For more information on Dental Sealants visit:

health.maryland.gov/phpa/oralhealth/Pages/DentalSealants.aspx