



PIT AND FISSURE SEALANT PATIENT EDUCATION

Sealants are a thin, plastic coating placed on the chewing surfaces of teeth to prevent the development of tooth decay. Although thorough brushing and flossing can remove food particles and plaque from smooth surfaces of teeth, these tools cannot always get into all the pits and fissures of the back teeth to remove the food and plaque. Sealants protect these vulnerable areas from tooth decay by "sealing out" plaque and food.

First the tooth will be cleaned and then "prepped" using an etching material. The sealant is then painted onto the tooth enamel and light cured. This is a non-invasive procedure that does not permanently alter the anatomy of the tooth.

Dental sealant application may result in a slightly altered bite, gum irritation, cracking and/or stretching of the corners of the mouth, change in aesthetic appearance of teeth, allergic and/or adverse reaction to materials.

Sealants hold up well under the force of normal chewing and may last several years before a reapplication is needed. During your regular dental visits, your dentist will check the condition of the sealants and reapply them when necessary.

You may be required to limit consumption of foods that are especially hard, sticky or chewy. These foods may include but are not limited to: ice cubes, licorice, jawbreakers and sticky toffees. These foods can abrade and/or pull on the sealant, decreasing the sealant's longevity.

My signature below acknowledges I have read and understand the information provided to me and my questions have been answered.

Patient's Name

Patient's (or Legal Guardian's) Signature

Date