



Atkins, Maestrello, Miller, & Associates

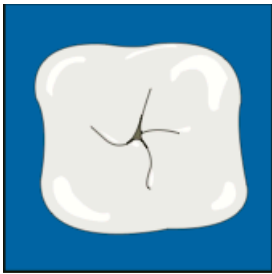
**PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY, P.C.**

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## Dental Sealants Question & Answer:

### Why do molars need sealants?



The top of a molar has pits and grooves on it. These grooves can trap food and bacteria, which causes cavities.

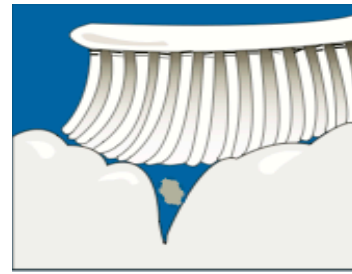


A dental sealant fills these grooves. It helps keep food out and makes it easier to keep the tooth clean.

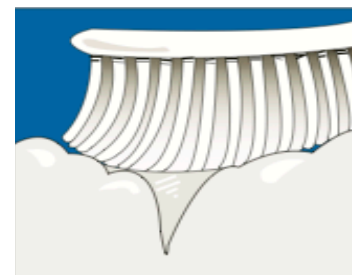
### How long do sealants last?

Sealants should last up to 10 years when they are well taken care of. This includes proper brushing and flossing, as well as limiting sugar in your child's diet. Sealants that fracture can be replaced at your child's next recall visit.

### How do dental sealants prevent decay?



Toothbrush bristles can not clean out the food and bacteria trapped in the grooves.



Dental sealants fill the pits and grooves to prevent food and bacteria from getting stuck.

### Does it hurt to have sealants placed?

Getting a sealant is painless and takes about 5 minutes per tooth. No drilling or shots are necessary. Normal brushing and diet can be resumed right after sealant placement. There is no recovery time or soreness.

### Who should get sealants on their teeth?

Children should be checked by their dentist to see if they would benefit from sealant placement. Typically, children should have sealants placed on their 6-year and 12-year molars soon after they erupt.

### How much do sealants cost?

Generally, placing a sealant on a tooth is less expensive than placing a filling in a tooth.

Your insurance may cover part or all of sealant placement, check with your dental assistant to learn more!

### FUN FACT:

**Sealants on permanent molars reduce the risk of cavities by 80%!**