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## Sealants

### What are sealants?

Sealants are a thin layer of fluoride-releasing, tooth-colored filling material that can be applied to the deep grooves on the back teeth (molars) to protect them from developing a cavity. The biting surfaces of the molars are characterized by numerous crevices and grooves known as “pits and fissures.” Sealants are designed to fill these deep areas and reduce the risk of cavities in these susceptible areas.

### How are sealants applied to teeth?

Placement of sealants is a painless, simple process for our patients which does NOT involve making the teeth numb. The teeth being sealed are cleaned, dried, and the sealant material is painted onto the tooth where it is hardened with a special light. There are no dietary restrictions after sealants are placed and your child can eat or drink right away.

### Are sealants safe?

Sealants are very safe and are appropriate for nearly every child. The product that we use has been thoroughly tested and does not contain any Bisphenol A (BPA) or Bisphenol A glycidyl methacrylate (bis-GMA).

### At what age should my child get sealants?

For most children, sealants should be applied to the permanent six-year molars, between age six and nine -- just after these teeth fully ‘erupt’ into position. Later, as the twelve-year molars erupt, these molars should also be sealed. In some cases, the primary (baby) molars that show evidence of deep crevices and are susceptible to cavity formation also have sealants applied in order to reduce the risk of cavities.

### How long do sealants last?

In most cases, the sealant will last for several years and help to reduce cavities during the most susceptible years of a child’s life. Each sealed tooth is evaluated carefully at check-up visits to make sure that it is intact. If a sealant requires replacement at any time up to three years from initial application, PDA Dental Group will replace the sealant free of charge. Keep in mind that sealants are only designed to help in preventing cavities. The success of your child’s sealants will depend on the care given to them at home including good brushing/flossing and healthy dietary choices.

Our goal is to keep every child **CAVITY FREE** and sealants are a helpful tool in accomplishing that goal. If you have any questions about sealants, please feel free to ask one of our clinical staff members.

#### Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Sonia Wu, DMD  
Dr. Nicole Harrington, DMD  
Dr. Matthew Freitas, DMD  
Dr. Sean Ghassem-Zadeh, DMD  
Dr. Patrick Cooper, DMD  
Dr. Karina Vergara, DMD  
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#### Orthodontics

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#### Adult Dentistry

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