



Children's Dentistry Project

Dental Sealants



*Help your child's teeth last
a lifetime*

How Can Cavities Be Prevented?

- Brush and floss your teeth every day.
- Use fluoride toothpaste and drink fluoridated water.
- Eat healthy foods and avoid sugar.
- Visit your dentist for regular check-ups.
- Have **sealants** placed on children's teeth.



Sealants are recommended by the American Dental Association and the United States Surgeon General.



*West Virginia Department of Health and
Human Resources*

Bureau for Public Health
Office of Maternal, Child
and Family Health

Oral Health Program
Children's Dentistry Project
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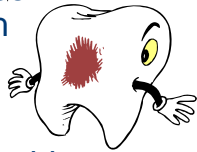
**(304) 558-5388 or
1-800-642-8522**

www.wvdhhr.org/mcfh



What Are Dental Sealants?

Dental decay usually begins in the grooves of the back permanent teeth. A tooth brush can't reach into these grooves to brush away food and germs.



A dental sealant is a white liquid coating that is painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth (molars and premolars). Sealants fill in the grooves and make the tooth surface smooth. The sealant liquid hardens to keep out the food and germs that cause cavities.

Children should get sealants on their permanent back teeth as soon as they come in.

The first permanent back teeth (first molars) usually come in when a child is between the ages of 5 and 7. Another set of permanent back teeth (premolars and second molars) usually come in between the ages of 11 and 14.

Getting Sealants Is Easy

Getting Sealants doesn't hurt.

No Shots. No Drilling.

Your child won't feel the sealants because they are very thin. They won't show when your child talks or smiles.



The Dentist or Hygienist:

- Cleans the tooth.
- Dabs the tooth with a special solution to help the sealant stick.
- Paints on the sealant. It gets hard within seconds.

Sealants Help You Save money

Sealants cost a lot less than fillings. The West Virginia Medicaid and CHIP programs pay for sealants. If you have dental insurance, it may pay all or some of the cost for sealants.



Sealants save you money because they protect teeth from cavities. Parents will spend less money on fillings, crowns or caps.

Sealants can last five or more years.

Sealants should be checked by a dentist during regular dental check-ups. If needed, sealants can be reapplied.