

SEALANTS PREVENT CAVITIES

Children and youths without sealants have almost three times more cavities than those with sealants.*



What are sealants?

Sealants are protective coatings put on permanent first and second molars to help keep them healthy and protected from cavities.

When should children and youths get sealants?

Your first molars appear around age 6, and second molars break through around age 12. Sealing these teeth as soon as they come through can keep them cavity-free.

Can children and youths eat right away?

Yes. They can eat right after having sealants applied.

What are the benefits of sealants?

Sealants are safe and protect teeth from harmful bacteria and cavities.

How are sealants applied?

Sealants are painted on back teeth. They are quick and painless to apply! The whole process only takes a matter of minutes.

How long will sealants last?

Sealants can last for several years! Ask your dentist when your children or youths should get sealants reapplied.

Will sealants replace fluoride?

No. Both sealants and fluoride are needed to protect teeth from cavities.

Are sealants covered by Medi-Cal Dental?

Yes! With your Medi-Cal dental benefit, sealants are covered for children and youths under the age of 21.



Teeth that will be sealed are thoroughly cleaned and dried, and the area around each tooth is isolated with cotton rolls.



A blue solution is applied to the tooth to create microscopic pores which help the sealant adhere to the tooth. Then, the tooth is thoroughly rinsed and dried again.



The dental sealant is painted in the grooves and pits of the tooth, and a special light is used to harden the material. The sealant is in place.

Visit SmileCalifornia.org/Sealants to learn more about sealants for children and youths and to find a Medi-Cal dentist.

