

Sealants Help Prevent Cavities



Medi-Cal Dental


smile,
CALIFORNIA™
MEDI-CAL HAS DENTAL COVERED

Did You Know...

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

Once applied, sealants protect against **80%** of cavities for 2 years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to 4 years.*

Medi-Cal Dental covers sealants for children and youths under the age of 21.

*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/dental-sealants/index.html



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 my child get sealants?

Your first molars should 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.

How are sealants applied?



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



Next, 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.



Finally, 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.

QUESTIONS

Can my child eat right away?

Yes. Your child is fine to eat after having the sealants applied.

How long will sealants last?

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



Will sealants replace fluoride?

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

Are sealants covered by the Medi-Cal dental benefit?

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





Thank you!

Visit **SmileCalifornia.org** to find
a Medi-Cal dentist for your child
to get sealants.



Medi-Cal Dental

