



## SEALANTS

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT SEALANTS ARE NOT A GUARANTEE THAT YOUR CHILD WILL NOT HAVE ANY CAVITIES, WITHOUT ADEQUATE HYGIENE HABITS AT HOME, CAVITIES CAN OCCUR EVEN UNDER SEALANTS AND DENTAL WORK. SEALANTS DO WEAR OVER TIME A WILL NEED TO BE RE-APPLIED IN A FEW YEARS.

**What is a dental sealant?** A dental sealant is a plastic coating applied to the chewing surfaces of back teeth. Grooves in these teeth are so narrow that a toothbrush cannot fit into the spaces to remove plaque. Dental sealants prevent dental decay in the grooves. **Why are they important?** Sealants can provide protection on the chewing surface, therefore making these hard to clean surface easier to clean and preventing food from getting stuck in the grooves of the teeth. Please keep in mind that only good hygiene and nutrition habits can prevent dental decay.



### How are sealants applied?

**First** - The tooth is cleaned with a mild abrasive paste, then rinsed and air dried. Bonding agent is used for optimal retention and longevity of the sealant

**Second** - The liquid sealant is painted into the grooves of the teeth. **Third** - A high intensity light is used to activate the liquid plastic to harden.

**Why aren't sealants used on all teeth?** The liquid plastic is designed to flow into and fill the pits and grooves of the teeth. The plastic does not work on the smooth surfaces of the teeth, like the fronts and backs and sides of the teeth.

***PLEASE NOTE THAT SEALS CAN ONLY BE DONE WHEN XRAYS ARE CURRENT WITH IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS, WE RECOMMEND TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DOCTOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR SEALS, ANY SEALANT PROCEDURES SCHEDULED OVER THE THREE MONTH WINDOW, WILL REQUIRE NEW XRAYS TO ASSURE TEETH HAVE NO CAVITIES BEFORE THEY ARE SEALED. THESE NEW XRAYS WILL NOT BE COVERED BY INSURANCE.***