

Dental Sealants

What are sealants and how do they protect teeth?

- Dental sealants are thin coatings painted on the chewing surfaces of back teeth.
- Sealants keep food and germs away from hard to clean pits and grooves.
- Dental sealants prevent 80% of cavities in the back teeth.¹



When are dental sealants applied?

Children typically get sealants put on their permanent, back teeth between the ages of 6 and 12.

How long do dental sealants last?

- Sealants can last up to 10 years.
- They should be checked regularly by a dental professional.
- Dental sealants that are chipped or worn away can be reapplied.



Where to get sealants:

- Sealants can be applied at dental offices, mobile dental clinics, and schools with dental sealant programs.
- The cost of dental sealants is often covered by insurance, and Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile is a school-based program that provides sealants to children at no cost to families.
- On average, 90,000 sealants are placed per year by Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile programs.
- For more information, please visit the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Oral Health Program's website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/oral-health/programs/seal-smile.htm.



Next steps:

- Determine if your child will receive dental sealants from your dental provider or at a school-based sealant program.
- Make your child's appointment for dental sealants.
- Ensure your children drink fluoridated water, brush their teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste, and get regular dental check-ups.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). *Dental Sealants Prevent Cavities*. <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/dental-sealants/index.html>



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