

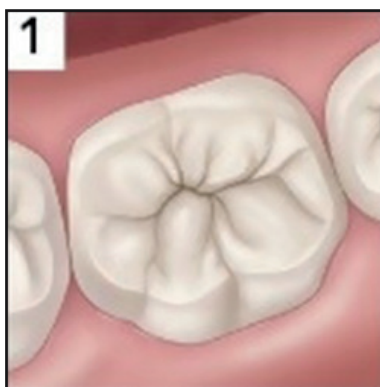
Sealants

A dental sealant is a thin coating painted on the chewing surfaces of a tooth to prevent tooth decay. They are typically placed on primary molars and permanent premolars and molars. The sealant quickly bonds into the grooves of the teeth to prevent food and bacteria from entering and form a protective shield over the enamel of each tooth.

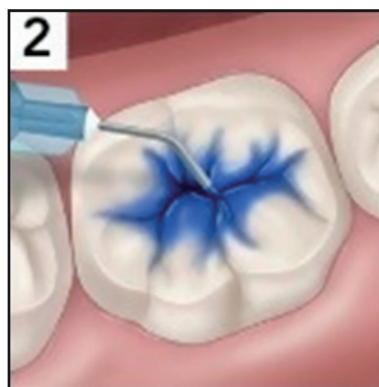
Fissure sealants are a safe and painless way of protecting your children's teeth from tooth decay and reduce the chances of a tooth forming decay by as much as 70 percent.

Sealants can last up to 10 years. But they need to be checked at regular dental check-ups to make sure they are not chipped or worn away. The dentist or dental hygienist can repair sealants by adding more sealant material.

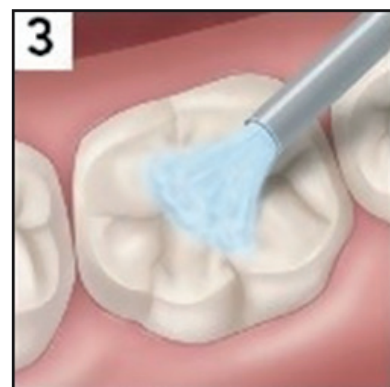
Getting a sealant is easy. The tooth is cleaned and a gel may be placed on the chewing surface for a few seconds. The tooth is then rinsed and dried. The dentist will shine a light on the tooth to help harden the sealant to form a protective shield.



1
Tooth without sealant



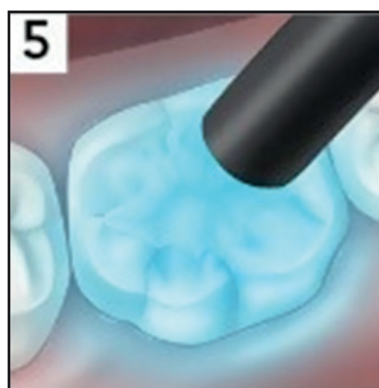
2
Etching solution is applied



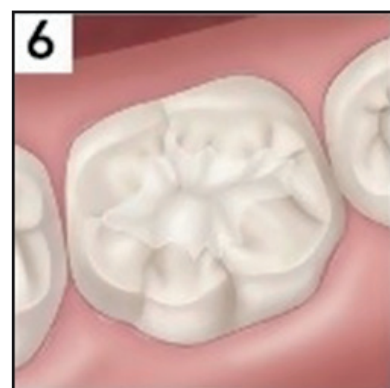
3
Tooth is cleaned and dried



4
Sealant is applied



5
Using either a light or air, sealant takes a few minutes to dry



6
Tooth with final sealant