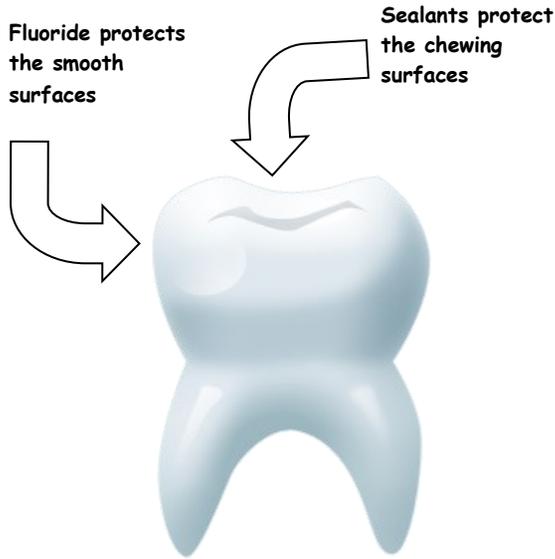


**Fluoride and Sealants Together
Protect the Entire Surface
of the Tooth from Decay**



- For Total Protection From Decay:**
- ✓ Get dental sealants if needed
 - ✓ Make sure you're getting fluoride
 - ✓ Brush and floss every day
 - ✓ Eat a nutritious diet
 - ✓ Visit your dentist regularly



Is a collaborative effort of 20 community partners to provide "Seal-A-Smile" a school based sealant and fluoride varnish program offered to 2nd & 6th-9th graders in Portage County Schools.

DENTAL SEALANTS

are thin plastic coating applied to the chewing surfaces of back teeth (molars) to prevent decay. Sealants fill in the pits and grooves so germs (bacteria) cannot multiply and cause cavities.

FLUORIDE VARNISH

is a protective coating that is painted on teeth to help prevent new cavities and to help stop cavities that have already started.

Healthy Smiles for Portage County
817 Whiting Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-345-5781
FAX 715-345-5966

Portage County provides employment and services to any eligible person without regard to age, race, religion, color, sex, national origin, ancestry, handicap, physical condition, developmental disability [as defined in s.51.01(5)], arrest or conviction record [s.111.32], sexual orientation, marital status, or ability to pay.



**SEAL
- A -
SMILE**

provided by



What are dental sealants?

A dental sealant is a thin, plastic coating painted on the chewing surfaces of the molars (back teeth). Sealants protect the back teeth from decay.

Why get sealants?

Most children get cavities on the chewing surfaces of their molars (back teeth). These teeth have pits and grooves where germs (bacteria) and food hide and cause tooth decay. These deep grooves are impossible to keep clean because toothbrush bristles cannot reach them.

How do sealants prevent decay?

Dental sealants cover the pits and grooves. This keeps food out and makes it easier to keep the tooth clean.

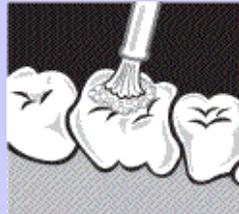
Who should get sealants on their teeth?

Children should get sealants placed on their back teeth *as soon as the teeth come in*— before decay attacks the teeth. Sealants work best when placed on six-year and twelve-year molars, and premolars with deep pits. These back teeth are permanent and will not grow back if they are lost to decay.

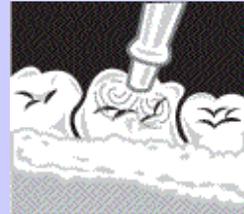
Does it hurt to have sealants put on teeth?

No. Getting a sealant is painless. It only takes about five minutes per tooth. No drilling or shots are necessary.

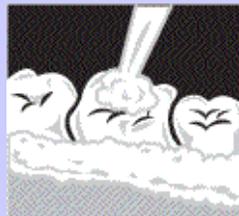
How Dental Sealants are Applied to Teeth



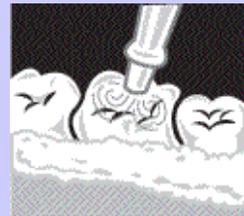
1. The tooth and the pits and grooves are cleaned.



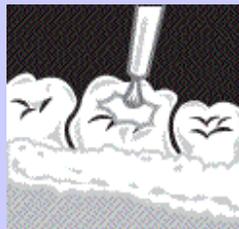
2. The tooth is dried with air. Cotton is put around the tooth to keep it dry.



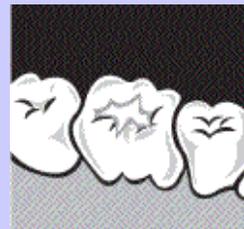
3. A solution is put on the tooth to make the sealant stick better.



4. The tooth is rinsed and dried. New cotton is put around the tooth so it stays dry.



5. The sealant is applied to the tooth. It flows into the pits and grooves.



6. The new sealant will help protect the tooth from decay for many years.

How long do sealants last?

Sealants should last up to 10 years with proper care. Proper care includes regular dental check-ups to make sure they are not chipped or worn away. Sealants can be easily repaired by adding more sealant material.

Are sealants safe?

Dental sealants are completely safe and are recommended by the American Dental Association and the US Surgeon General. Sealants are simple, painless, and require no drilling. All instruments are sterilized before and after the procedure. Sealants used in the “Seal-A-Smile” program do not contain Bisphenol A.

How much do sealants cost?

There is no cost to you. The “Seal-A-Smile” school based dental sealant program is funded through local grants and Medical Assistance.

Why is preventing decay with sealants better than repairing a diseased tooth?

Sealants can prevent decay and save the structure of the natural tooth. Sealants can prevent the pain caused by decayed teeth. Sealants can prevent the trouble, expense, and discomfort of dental repairs.

