

## Sealants have proven to prevent tooth decay.



Step 1: A tooth with no fillings and the patient has good oral hygiene.



Step 2: Cross section through the top of the tooth reveals the deep but very narrow groove.



Step 3: A small amount of a very fluid filling like sealant material is placed over the tooth and flows down into the grooves.



Step 4: The material is light cured and solidifies forming a protective and very durable "seal" over the biting surface of the tooth.



Step 5: A view of the sealant in place.

What is a sealant? A dental sealant is a tooth-colored material that helps shield out decay-causing bacteria from the chewing surfaces of back teeth.

Sealant material forms a protective barrier by bonding to tooth surfaces and covering natural depressions and grooves (called pits and fissures) in the teeth. More than 75% of dental decay begins in the pit and fissure areas of the back teeth. Combined with proper home care and regular dental visits, sealants are extremely effective in preventing tooth decay. Depending on your chewing pattern, the sealant effect can last many years.