

WELCOME!

We would like to welcome your child to our office. Our goal is to make every child's visit pleasant and educational. Our practice is based on preventive care. We strive to teach good oral care that will enable your child to have a beautiful smile that lasts a lifetime!

Tell Us About Your Child

Today's Date: _____

Child's Name: _____
Last First MI

Child's Birthdate: ____/____/____ Child's Age: _____

Nickname: _____ Male Female

School: _____ Grade: _____

Hobbies: _____

Child's Home #: (____) _____ SS #: _____

Child's Home Address: _____
Apt / Condo #

City State Zip

General Information

Who is accompanying the child today?

Name: _____ Relation: _____

Do you have legal custody of this child? Yes No

Whom may we Thank for referring you? _____

Other siblings: _____

Previous/Present Dentist: _____ Last Visit Date: _____

Dentist's Phone: (____) _____

Relative or Friend not living with you:

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

City State Zip

Parent's Information

Who is responsible for account? _____ Parent's Marital Status

Father Step Father Guardian

Name: _____ Birthdate: ____/____/____

Address: (If different than Child's) Hm #: (____) _____

SS #: _____ DL #: _____

Wk #: (____) Ext: _____ Cell/Other #: (____) _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Employer's Address: _____

City State Zip

If you have Dental Insurance Coverage for the Child, please fill out below:

Insurance Co. Name: _____

Insurance Address: _____

City State Zip

Insurance Phone: (____) _____

Group # (Plan, Local, or Policy #): _____

Single Married Partnered Widowed Divorced Separated

Mother Step Mother Guardian

Name: _____ Birthdate: ____/____/____

Address: (If different than Child's) Hm #: (____) _____

SS #: _____ DL #: _____

Wk #: (____) Ext: _____ Cell/Other #: (____) _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Employer's Address: _____

City State Zip

If you have Dental Insurance Coverage for the Child, please fill out below:

Insurance Co. Name: _____

Insurance Address: _____

City State Zip

Insurance Phone: (____) _____

Group # (Plan, Local, or Policy #): _____

Release

I certify that my child is covered by _____ Insurance Co. and I assign all insurance benefits otherwise payable to me. I understand that I am responsible for payment of services rendered and also responsible for paying any copayment and deductible that my insurance does not cover. I hereby authorize the dentist to release all information necessary to secure the payment of benefits. I authorize the use of this signature on all my insurance submissions, whether manual or electronic.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

CONTINUED ON BACK

Dental & Medical History

Why did you bring the child to the dentist today? _____

Has the child ever taken any diet pills such as Phen-Fen? Yes No
 (Also known as Redux or Pondimin.) If so, when? _____

Is the child currently in pain? Yes No

Does the child require antibiotics before dental treatment? Yes No

Has the child ever had a serious/difficult problem associated with previous dental work? Yes No

Is the child's water fluoridated? Yes No

Is the child taking fluoridated supplements? Yes No

Has the child ever had any pain/tenderness in his/her jaw joint (TMJ/TMD)? Yes No

Does the child brush his/her teeth daily? Yes No

Floss his/her teeth daily? Yes No

Child's Physician: _____

Phone #: _____ Date of Last Visit: _____

Is the child currently under the care of a physician? Yes No

Please describe the child's current physical health:
 Good Fair Poor

Please list all prescription / over the counter or supplement drugs that the child is currently taking:

Aside from the items listed, please list all drugs/things that the child is allergic to:

Latex Metals/Nickel Plastic

Has the child experienced the following medical problems?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Abnormal Bleeding / Hemophilia | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Heart Murmur |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N ADD/ADHD | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Hepatitis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N AIDS/HIV+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Hives/Skin Rash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Anemia | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Kidney Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Any Hospital Stays/Operations? | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Liver Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Artificial Bones/Joints/Valves | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Low/High Blood Pressure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Lupus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Measles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Chicken Pox | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Mitral Valve Prolapse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Congenital Heart Defect | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Mononucleosis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Convulsions | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Prosthetics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Rheumatic Fever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Epilepsy | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Scarlet Fever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Exposed to HIV, but Neg. | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Sickle Cell Disease |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Handicaps/Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Stroke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Hearing Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Tuberculosis (TB) |

Are the child's immunizations current? Yes No

Anything you would like to discuss with the Doctor in private? Yes No

Please discuss any serious medical problems the child experiences/ed:

Does/did the child experience any of the following?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Breast Fed | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Nursing Bottle Habits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Chewing on Objects | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Speech Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Clenching/Grinding Teeth | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Thumb/Finger Sucking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Lip Sucking/Biting | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Tongue/Cheek Biting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Mouth Breather | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Tongue Thrust |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Nail Biting | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Used Pacifier |

Our office is HIPAA Compliant and is committed to meeting or exceeding the standards of infection control mandated by OSHA, the CDC and the ADA.

I affirm that the information I have given is correct to the best of my knowledge. It will be held in the strictest confidence and it is my responsibility to inform this office of any changes in my child's medical status. I authorize the dental staff to perform the necessary dental services my child may need.

 Signature of Parent or Guardian

 Date

OFFICE USE ONLY OFFICE USE ONLY OFFICE USE ONLY OFFICE USE ONLY OFFICE USE ONLY

I have verbally reviewed the medical/dental information above with the parent/guardian & patient named herein.

 Signature of Dentist

 Date

Dentist's Comments: _____

Medical History Update

Has there been any change in your child's health status since their last visit? Y N
 If Yes, please explain. _____

 Parent/Guardian Signature

 Date

 Dentist Signature

 Date

Has there been any change in your child's health status since their last visit? Y N
 If Yes, please explain. _____

 Parent/Guardian Signature

 Date

 Dentist Signature

 Date

OFFICE POLICIES FOR PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY AND ORTHODONTICS

Welcome to our dental practice! We are delighted that you have chosen our office to care for your family's dental needs. It is the intention of the following office policies to assist in making your treatment as pleasant and efficient as possible. Please help us to help you! Thank you !

I. Payments and Charges:

1. All **New Patients** will be required to pay for services rendered on the first visit unless insurance is involved.
2. Your time is valuable and the doctors conscientiously takes patients on time for their appointments. Please be considerate of our time by giving us a 24 hour notice of cancellation. Failure to do so will result in a **\$25** charge.

II. Insurance

1. As a **courtesy** to our patients, we will bill your insurance company for you but, will require your portion and/or deductible at the time of each visit.
2. The office will bill you directly for any portion owing that insurance has not covered. **You are ultimately responsible for your account.**
3. Should your insurance company reimburse you directly (**i.e. Blue Shield**), payment will be expected **IN FULL** at time of each visit.

III. Overdue Accounts

1. Payment arrangements can be made **in advance** with the office in order to keep your account current.
2. Please help us in keeping your accounts current! Accounts **over 90 days** will be sent to collections !

IV. Parents

OUR OFFICE ASKS THAT YOU, (AS THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN), MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR CHILD AT ALL DENTAL VISITS.

I have read and understand the office policies and agree to adhere to them. My signature below authorizes and serves as assignment of benefits from my insurance company and that benefits be made to this office directly, for services administered to patient.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Photography Release for Minor Child or Children

I hereby authorize **Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics**, hereafter referred to as "**the office**", to publish photographs taken on _____ of myself and/or the minor child or children listed below, and our names and likenesses, for use in the **Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics**'s print, online and video-based marketing materials, as well as other Company publications.

I hereby release and hold harmless "**the office**" from any reasonable expectation of privacy or confidentiality for myself and for the minor child and children listed below associated with the images specified above. Further, I attest that I am the parent or legal guardian of the child or children listed below and that I have full authority to consent and authorize **Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics** to use their likenesses and names.

I further acknowledge that participation is voluntary and that neither I, the minor child, or minor children will receive financial compensation of any type associated with the taking or publication of these photographs or participation in company marketing materials or other Company publications. I acknowledge and agree that publication of said photos confers no rights of ownership or royalties whatsoever.

I hereby release "**the office**", its contractors, its employees and any third parties involved in the creation or publication of Company publications, from liability for any claims by me or any third party in connection with my participation or the participation of the minor children listed below.

Authorization:

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Relationship to Children: _____

Names and Ages of Minor Children:

Name: _____ Age: _____

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.
THE PRIVACY OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US.

OUR LEGAL DUTY

We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your health information. We are also required to give you this Notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this Notice while it is in effect. This Notice takes effect April 14, 2003, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our Notice effective for all health information that we maintain, including health information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and make the new Notice available upon request.

For more information about our privacy practices, or to request a copy of our Notice, please contact us using the information listed on this website.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. For example:

Treatment: We may use or disclose your health information to a physician or other healthcare provider providing treatment to you.

Payment: We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide to you.

Healthcare Operations: We may use and disclose your health information in connection with our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.

Your Authorization: In addition to our use of your health information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations, you may give us written authorization to use your health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us a written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this Notice.

To Your Family and Friends: We must disclose your health information to you as described in the Patient Rights section of this Notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member, friend, or other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment for your healthcare; but only if you agree that we may do so.

Persons Involved In Care: We may use or disclose health information to notify or assist in the notification of (including identifying or locating) a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care, of your location, your general condition, or death. If you are present, then prior to use or disclosure of your health information, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures. In the event of your incapacity or emergency circumstances, we will disclose health information based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only health information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement in your healthcare. We will also use our professional judgment and our experience with common practice to make reasonable inferences of your best interest in allowing a person to pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, x-rays, or other similar forms of health information.

Marketing Health-Related Services: We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your written authorization.

Required by Law: We may use or disclose your health information when we are required to do so by law.

Abuse or Neglect: We may disclose your health information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, domestic violence, or the possible victim of other crimes. We may disclose your health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

National Security: We may disclose to military authorities the health information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorized federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution or law enforcement official having lawful custody of protected health information of inmate or patient under certain circumstances.

Appointment Reminders: We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders (such as voicemail messages, postcards, or letters).

PATIENT RIGHTS

Access: You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format you request unless we cannot practicably do so. You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information. We may charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies and staff time. If you request an alternative format, we will charge a cost-based fee for providing your health information in that format.

Disclosure Accounting: You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your health information for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations, and certain other activities, but not before April 14, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

Restriction: You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement, except in an emergency.

Alternative Communication: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. **{You must make your request in writing.}** Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your health information. Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended. We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

Electronic Notice: If you receive this Notice on our website or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are entitled to receive this Notice in written form.

QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us at the address or phone number provided on this website.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, you disagree with a decision we made about access to your health information, or in response to a request you made to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your health information, or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may complain to us using the contact information listed on this website. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon request.

We support your right to the privacy of your health information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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This Form is educational only, does not constitute legal advice, and covers only federal, not state, law (August 14, 2002; April 30, 2009).

Dental Materials – Advantages & Disadvantages

PORCELAIN FUSED TO METAL

This type of porcelain is a glass-like material that is “enameled” on top of metal shells. It is tooth-colored and is used for crowns and fixed bridges

Advantages

- ♥ Good resistance to further decay if the restoration fits well
- ♥ Very durable, due to metal substructure
- ♥ The material does not cause tooth sensitivity
- ♥ Resists leakage because it can be shaped for a very accurate fit

Disadvantages

- More tooth must be removed (than for porcelain) for the metal substructure
- Higher cost because it requires at least two office visits and laboratory services

GOLD ALLOY

Gold alloy is a gold-colored mixture of gold, copper, and other metals and is used mainly for crowns and fixed bridges and some partial denture frameworks

Advantages

- ♥ Good resistance to further decay if the restoration fits well
- ♥ Excellent durability; does not fracture under stress
- ♥ Does not corrode in the mouth
- ♥ Minimal amount of tooth needs to be removed
- ♥ Wears well; does not cause excessive wear to opposing teeth
- ♥ Resists leakage because it can be shaped for a very accurate fit

Disadvantages

- Is not tooth colored; alloy is yellow
- Conducts heat and cold; may irritate sensitive teeth
- High cost; requires at least two office visits and laboratory services

DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

1432 Howe Avenue • Sacramento, California 95825

www.dbc.ca.gov

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The Facts About Fillings

The Facts About Fillings



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Dental Materials Fact Sheet

What About the Safety of Filling Materials?

Patient health and the safety of dental treatments are the primary goals of California’s dental professionals and the Dental Board of California. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide you with information concerning the risks and benefits of all the dental materials used in the restoration (filling) of teeth.

The Dental Board of California is required by law* to make this dental materials fact sheet available to every licensed dentist in the state of California. Your dentist, in turn, must provide this fact sheet to every new patient and all patients of record only once before beginning any dental filling procedure.

As the patient or parent/guardian, you are strongly encouraged to discuss with your dentist the facts presented concerning the filling materials being considered for your particular treatment.

* *Business and Professions Code 1648.10-1648.20*

Allergic Reactions to Dental Materials

Components in dental fillings may have side effects or cause allergic reactions, just like other materials we may come in contact with in our daily lives. The risks of such reactions are very low for all types of filling materials. Such reactions can be caused by specific components of the filling materials such as mercury, nickel, chromium, and/or beryllium alloys. Usually, an allergy will reveal itself as a skin rash and is easily reversed when the individual is not in contact with the material.

There are no documented cases of allergic reactions to composite resin, glass ionomer, resin ionomer, or porcelain. However, there have been rare allergic responses reported with dental amalgam, porcelain fused to metal, gold alloys, and nickel or cobalt-chrome alloys.

If you suffer from allergies, discuss these potential problems with your dentist before a filling material is chosen.

PORCELAIN (CERAMIC)

Porcelain is a glass-like material formed into fillings or crowns using models of the prepared teeth. The material is tooth-colored and is used in inlays, veneers, crowns and fixed bridges.

Advantages

- ♥ Very little tooth needs to be removed for use as a veneer; more tooth needs to be removed for a crown because its strength is related to its bulk (size)
- ♥ Good resistance to further decay if the restoration fits well
- ♥ Is resistant to surface wear but can cause some wear on opposing teeth
- ♥ Resists leakage because it can be shaped for a very accurate fit
- ♥ The material does not cause tooth sensitivity

Disadvantages

- Material is brittle and can break under biting forces
- May not be recommended for molar teeth
- Higher cost because it requires at least two office visits and laboratory services

NICKEL OR COBALT-CHROME ALLOYS

Nickel or cobalt-chrome alloys are mixtures of nickel and chromium. They are a dark silver metal color and are used for crowns and fixed bridges and most partial denture frameworks.

Advantages

- ♥ Good resistance to further decay if the restoration fits well
- ♥ Excellent durability; does not fracture under stress
- ♥ Does not corrode in the mouth
- ♥ Minimal amount of tooth needs to be removed
- ♥ Resists leakage because it can be shaped for a very accurate fit

Disadvantages

- Is not tooth colored; alloy is a dark silver metal color
- Conducts heat and cold; may irritate sensitive teeth
- Can be abrasive to opposing teeth
- High cost; requires at least two office visits and laboratory services
- Slightly higher wear to opposing teeth



Dental Materials – Advantages & Disadvantages

GLASS IONOMER CEMENT

Glass ionomer cement is a self-hardening mixture of glass and organic acid. It is tooth-colored and varies in translucency. Glass ionomer is usually used for small fillings, cementing metal and porcelain/metal crowns, liners, and temporary restorations.

Advantages

- ♥ Reasonably good esthetics
- ♥ May provide some help against decay because it releases fluoride
- ♥ Minimal amount of tooth needs to be removed and it bonds well to both the enamel and the dentin beneath the enamel
- ♥ Material has low incidence of producing tooth sensitivity
- ♥ Usually completed in one dental visit

Disadvantages

- Cost is very similar to composite resin (which costs more than amalgam)
- Limited use because it is not recommended for biting surfaces in permanent teeth
- As it ages, this material may become rough and could increase the accumulation of plaque and chance of periodontal disease
- Does not wear well; tends to crack over time and can be dislodged

RESIN-IONOMER CEMENT

Resin ionomer cement is a mixture of glass and resin polymer and organic acid that hardens with exposure to a blue light used in the dental office. It is tooth colored but more translucent than glass ionomer cement. It is most often used for small fillings, cementing metal and porcelain metal crowns and liners.

Advantages

- ♥ Very good esthetics
- ♥ May provide some help against decay because it releases fluoride
- ♥ Minimal amount of tooth needs to be removed and it bonds well to both the enamel and the dentin beneath the enamel
- ♥ Good for non-biting surfaces
- ♥ May be used for short-term primary teeth restorations
- ♥ May hold up better than glass ionomer but not as well as composite
- ♥ Good resistance to leakage
- ♥ Material has low incidence of producing tooth sensitivity
- ♥ Usually completed in one dental visit

Disadvantages

- Cost is very similar to composite resin (which costs more than amalgam)
- Limited use because it is not recommended to restore the biting surfaces of adults
- Wears faster than composite and amalgam

Toxicity of Dental Materials

Dental Amalgam

Mercury in its elemental form is on the State of California's Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to the state to cause reproductive toxicity. Mercury may harm the developing brain of a child or fetus.

Dental amalgam is created by mixing elemental mercury (43-54%) and an alloy powder (46-57%) composed mainly of silver, tin, and copper. This has caused discussion about the risks of mercury in dental amalgam. Such mercury is emitted in minute amounts as vapor. Some concerns have been raised regarding possible toxicity. Scientific research continues on the safety of dental amalgam. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is scant evidence that the health of the vast majority of people with amalgam is compromised.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other public health organizations have investigated the safety of amalgam used in dental fillings. The conclusion: no valid scientific evidence has shown that amalgams cause harm to patients with dental restorations, except in rare cases of allergy. The World Health Organization reached a similar conclusion stating, "Amalgam restorations are safe and cost effective."

A diversity of opinions exists regarding the safety of dental amalgams. Questions have been raised about its safety in pregnant women, children, and diabetics. However, scientific evidence and research literature in peer-reviewed scientific journals suggest that otherwise healthy women, children, and diabetics are not at an increased risk from dental amalgams in their mouths. The FDA places no restrictions on the use of dental amalgam.

Composite Resin

Some Composite Resins include Crystalline Silica, which is on the State of California's Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to the state to cause cancer.

It is always a good idea to discuss any dental treatment thoroughly with your dentist.

DENTAL AMALGAM FILLINGS

Dental amalgam is a self-hardening mixture of silver-tin-copper alloy powder and liquid mercury and is sometimes referred to as silver fillings because of its color. It is often used as a filling material and replacement for broken teeth.

Advantages

- ♥ Durable; long lasting
- ♥ Wears well; holds up well to the forces of biting
- ♥ Relatively inexpensive
- ♥ Generally completed in one visit
- ♥ Self-sealing; minimal-to-no shrinkage and resists leakage
- ♥ Resistance to further decay is high, but can be difficult to find in early stages
- ♥ Frequency of repair and replacement is low

Disadvantages

- Refer to “What About the Safety of Filling Materials”
- Gray colored, not tooth colored
- May darken as it corrodes; may stain teeth over time
- Requires removal of some healthy tooth
- In larger amalgam fillings, the remaining tooth may weaken and fracture
- Because metal can conduct hot and cold temperatures, there may be a temporary sensitivity to hot and cold.
- Contact with other metals may cause occasional, minute electrical flow

The durability of any dental restoration is influenced not only by the material it is made from but also by the dentist’s technique when placing the restoration. Other factors include the supporting materials used in the procedure and the patient’s cooperation during the procedure. The length of time a restoration will last is dependent upon your dental hygiene, home care, and diet and chewing habits.

COMPOSITE RESIN FILLINGS

Composite fillings are a mixture of powdered glass and plastic resin, sometimes referred to as white, plastic, or tooth-colored fillings. It is used for fillings, inlays, veneers, partial and complete crowns, or to repair portions of broken teeth.

Advantages

- ♥ Strong and durable
- ♥ Tooth colored
- ♥ Single visit for fillings
- ♥ Resists breaking
- ♥ Maximum amount of tooth preserved
- ♥ Small risk of leakage if bonded only to enamel
- ♥ Does not corrode
- ♥ Generally holds up well to the forces of biting depending on product used
- ♥ Resistance to further decay is moderate and easy to find
- ♥ Frequency of repair or replacement is low to moderate

Disadvantages

- Refer to “*What About the Safety of Filling Materials*”
- Moderate occurrence of tooth sensitivity; sensitive to dentist’s method of application
- Costs more than dental amalgam
- Material shrinks when hardened and could lead to further decay and/or temperature sensitivity
- Requires more than one visit for inlays, veneers, and crowns
- May wear faster than dental enamel
- May leak over time when bonded beneath the layer of enamel

