



Tooth-Colored Restorations

We have restored one or more of your teeth with tooth-colored materials. These restorations will serve you well for several years. They contain the finest and most up-to-date materials available today. Please be aware of the following information about your new restorations:

Numbness: Typical numbing last 2-4 hours. During this period, try to refrain from eating so you do not accidentally chew your cheek or lip. Watch children closely as they often curiously chew their numb lips. If this happens a several sore will appear. However, it is often painless and will resolve on its own in a few days.

Things that may require attention:

1. If your **bite seems off** after a day or two, make sure to come back in so we may adjust your new filling. If this isn't done, the pain may become worse over several days.
2. **If food gets stuck** where it previously did not, we need to fix the filling.
3. If your tooth is **sensitive to sweets** we need to repair your filling.
4. If your tooth is sensitive to cold and not slowly getting better **over a few weeks** we may need to reevaluate your filling.
5. Any other question please call! We love what we do and want you to have the best experience possible!

Maintenance of Fillings: Fillings often need replaced not because of the filling material breaking down, but because of a new cavity developing along the margins of the new filling. The same factors that lead to this first cavity will continue to contribute to a new cavity developing in the same spot. Simple daily flossing is generally enough to prevent future problems. If cavities seem to be a recurrent problem, we can provide a very effective prescription toothpaste which significantly reduces the likelihood of future cavities.

Warranty: We have many choices in technique and materials. However, we are committed to only using the very finest and most up-to-date materials and techniques available. If a problem occurs, it often can be detected at an early stage and repaired easily. We will warranty your new fillings from any defect in techniques and or material as long as you **complete all recommended treatment** and **maintain regular 6 month exams and cleanings**.

Longevity: Every person is different; however, you can expect a certain longevity from each of your fillings.

- 10+ years. If you floss, maintain regular visits, and the filling was caught while still very small, you can easily get 10-20 yrs from your new filling(s).
- 5+ years. Average longevity, if no daily flossing and cavity was only fixed after it became large or was a replacement of a previous filling.
- 1-5 years. Fillings may fail prematurely if: you did not complete other recommended work in your mouth (the remaining bacteria in other areas of your mouth will attack this new filling); if the filling is very large (composing more than half of your tooth and should have received a crown or cap. We will often mention these fillings are temporary and just placed to buy us time and cannot be warranted.); or if regular cleaning and exams were not maintained.