

From Your DENTIST



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Family SmileCare Center, PLC

Newsletter Spring 2010

Our Mission: Helping you keep your smile for a lifetime.

Fillings Aren't Forever

Constant pressure from chewing, grinding, or clenching can cause dental fillings to wear away, chip, or crack. When exposed to cold or hot foods, edges of fillings may chip - similar to how "potholes" form in a street - forming an open margin. If the seal between the tooth enamel and the restoration breaks down, food particles and decay-causing bacteria can work their way under the restoration leading to recurrent decay. Existing fillings are one of the many things that are examined at your recall appointment and thus, we may recommend a replacement even before you have symptoms.



Dental Fillings

Now you have been told you need a filling - but which kind? Several factors influence the performance, durability, longevity, and cost of dental restorations. To help you better understand what's available, here are the advantages and disadvantages of commonly used dental fillings.



Amalgam Fillings (Silver fillings)

Used for more than a century, dental amalgam is the most thoroughly researched and tested restorative material among all those in use. It is durable, easy to use, highly resistant to wear and relatively inexpensive. Dental amalgam is a stable alloy made by combining mercury, silver, tin, copper and other metallic elements. Many major U.S. and international scientific and health bodies have shown that dental amalgam is a safe, reliable, and effective restorative material. Amalgam can withstand high chewing loads, thus making it useful in restoring back teeth. They are also useful in areas where a cavity is difficult to keep dry during the procedure and deep fillings that occur below the gum line.

Disadvantages include short-term temperature sensitivity, inability to chew on this until completely set the next day, dark color that will show through the tooth especially if the tooth is near the front of the mouth, and more tooth structure is removed to accommodate this filling.

Composite Fillings (Tooth-colored fillings)

Composite fillings are a mixture of glass or quartz filler in a resin medium that produces a tooth-colored filling. Less tooth structure is removed to accommodate this restoration and this may result in a smaller filling than that of an amalgam. Composites can also be "bonded" or adhesively held in a cavity, often being more conservative and repairable. This restoration is set upon completion of the procedure.



The cost is moderate and depends on the size of the filling and the technique used. It generally takes more equipment, expertise, and time to place this restoration, thus, has a higher fee than amalgam fillings. Composite fillings require a cavity that can be kept clean and dry during the procedure and the patient's ability to withstand a longer appointment.

Continued...

Visit our website for other information about our office.
www.familysmilecarecenter.com



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Dr. Renee Maikon

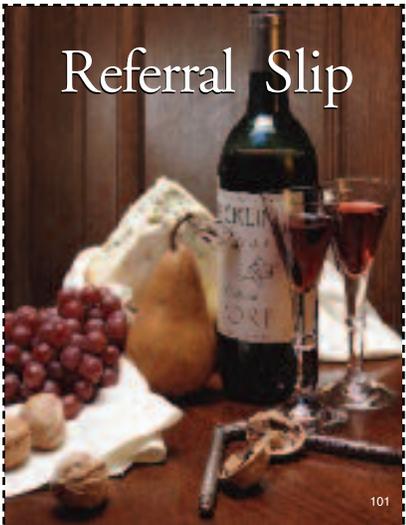
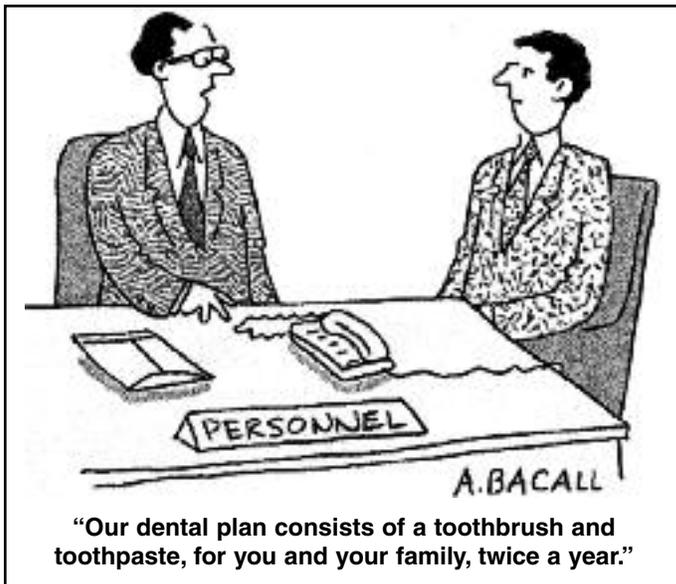


Dr. Amy Stodola

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Which restoration should I choose?

At your examination, we will provide you all the information necessary to make an informed decision, but the final decision is yours. Your decision may be based on esthetics, not wanting metal in your mouth, cost, or length of dental appointment. The trend in dentistry is toward composite restorations. Currently most insurance companies do not adjust their fee schedule when reimbursing for composites in the back teeth - thus patients are required to cover the increase in cost for this restoration. Many patients make decisions based on their coverage; however, this may limit your choices. If you have any questions, call your insurance company or have us send in a preauthorization. We are also happy to talk to you about payment options.



We would like more patients like you. Please refer us to your family, friends & co-workers and we will **THANK YOU** with a gift.

Have them call for an appointment

362-8657

After their first visit, we will contact you to choose:
 \$50 toward your next dental visit or
 \$50 to Biaggi's or Granite City or a
 \$50 BP Gasoline card

Thank you from
 Family SmileCare Center!