

Facts about the Dental Sealant Program at your School

What is a dental sealant?

A dental sealant **prevents cavities**. It is a thin, plastic coating that is painted on the chewing surfaces of an adult (permanent) molar tooth. The sealant hardens on the tooth and keeps germs and food from getting down into the deep pits and grooves where a toothbrush can't reach. The pits and grooves are where most cavities start.

Does it hurt to have sealants applied?

Getting sealants **doesn't hurt** at all. No drilling or shots are needed. It takes just a few minutes for a sealant to be placed. Once the sealant hardens, the child can go back to class.

How much does the sealant cost?

There is absolutely **no cost** to the families.

Why are sealants offered to only 2nd and 6th graders?

Sealants work best when they are placed soon after the permanent molars come into the mouth. Most 2nd graders have first molars that have recently erupted, and most 6th graders have newly erupted second molars.

How long do sealants last?

Sealants can last for several years without needing to be replaced. The children who receive sealants will be checked the following year for newly erupted teeth and to replace any sealants that have come off.

How do the children sign up for the sealants?

Simply fill out the consent form **completely** and return it to school.

Where can I learn more about sealants?

Visit mouthhealthy.org to learn more about dental sealants and other dental questions.