



## DHHS NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

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Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in program and services of DHHS are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance/EEO Coordinators. This notice is available in alternate formats, upon request.

- DENTAL SEALANTS PROTECT TEETH.
- GETTING SEALANTS IS EASY.
- SEALANTS HELP YOU SAVE MONEY



# DENTAL SEALANTS

HELP PREVENT  
TOOTH DECAY



HELP YOUR CHILD'S  
TEETH LAST A LIFETIME

## DENTAL SEALANTS

### PROTECT YOUR CHILD'S TEETH FROM DECAY

Sealants are a thin, plastic coating placed on the chewing surface of the back teeth (molars). The chewing surfaces of the back teeth are rough and uneven with small pits and grooves.



A toothbrush can't reach into these pits to brush away the food and germs that get trapped in the pits.

Sealants fill the pits and grooves and make the surfaces smooth. They keep out the foods and germs that cause tooth decay. Once decay starts in a tooth, it has to be cleaned out by drilling. Then the tooth has to be filled. A sealant is put on a tooth **before** decay ever starts.

**Children Should get sealants on their permanent molars as soon as the teeth come in.**

The first permanent molars usually come in when a child is between the ages of 5 and 7. The second permanent molars usually come in between the ages of 11 and 14.

Other teeth with pits and grooves might need sealants. Sealants can last up to 10 years without resealing. Regular dental exams and screenings can check for the presence of sealants placed.



SEALANTS  
HELP SAVE  
YOU MONEY  
BECAUSE  
THEY PROTECT  
TEETH FROM  
DECAY.

In the long run, you and your child will spend less on fillings, crowns or caps. And a healthy mouth means better health in general.

## SEALANT FACTS:

### Getting Sealants is easy.

The dentist or hygienist:

- Cleans the tooth.
- Dabs it with a special solution to help the sealant stick.
- Puts on the sealant. It gets hard in less than one minute.

### Getting sealants doesn't hurt.

No shots. No drilling. The tooth stays whole and strong. Your child won't feel the sealants because they are very thin. They won't show when your child talks or smiles.

### Sealants help save you money.

The cost of a sealant may vary, but a sealant costs a lot less than a filling. If you have dental insurance, it may pay for some sealants. The MaineCare program **does** pay for sealants.

