

## Important Information About Dental Appointments

Our health center appreciates your trust in us for your health needs. We strive to provide high-quality care to all our patients in a timely manner. Due to the large number of patients, we serve, we kindly ask you to respect the scheduled appointment time.

- **Arrive at Least 15 Minutes Before Your Appointment Time:**

Patients who arrive after their appointment time will lose their appointment and be asked to wait if an opening in the schedule occurs. If no opening becomes available, you will be rescheduled.

- **Failed Appointment or Late for Appointment:**

If you miss 3 appointments within a calendar year, no further scheduled appointments will be provided. The option to be seen as walk-in will only be available. A missed appointment is no showing to an appointment, cancelling appointment within 24 hours or same day, or are over 5 minutes late and the appointment could not be honored. Patients can be reinstated after six months.

- **Children Dental Appointment Policy:**

Parents or legal guardians are required to accompany minors (under 18). Legal guardians must show proof of guardianship on the first visit. The guardian must stay in the waiting room while the minor is being treated. At times the guardian may need to be present in the treatment room.

If the parent or legal guardian is not able to attend appointments, the parent or legal guardian can fill out "Consent to Treat Minor" form provided by our health center.

- **Adult Dental Appointments**

Minors/children (under 18 years of age) may not be left unattended in the waiting area. Limited space in operatory and exposure to radiation prevents additional personnel in treatment rooms. Recommend not to bring children to appointments.

- **Always Bring Dental Insurance Coverage Documents, such as:**

- Medi-Cal Card
- Delta Dental PPO/ Premier Card
- PAYMENT IS EXPECTED AT FRONT AT THE TIME OF THE VISIT IF YOU DO NOT HAVE DENTAL INSURANCE.

**\*\*\*\*If you have a dental emergency after hours\*\*\*\***

For Napa/Solano call: 707-254-1770

For Yolo call: 1-877-250-1670

I have read this document and understand the appointment policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient (Or Parent/Legal Guardian if patient is a minor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**General Dentistry Authorization Form**

I hereby authorize and request treating Dentist to perform general dentistry such as exam, x-rays, prophy (cleaning), administration of local anesthetic, composite and amalgam fillings, and those related procedures necessary and/or incidental to the above listed procedure as determined in the dentist's discretion. I have also been told that administration of local anesthetic might cause allergic response, temporary or permanent injury to nerves, and/or blood vessels from the injection.

It has been explained to me, and I understand, that alternatives to these procedures include no treatment.

It has been explained to me, and I understand, that a perfect result is not guaranteed or warranted and furthermore, that procedures may involve the possibility of complications, including but not limited to:

- A. Injury to adjacent teeth and fillings.
- B. Stretching at corners of the mouth with resultant cracking and bruising.
- C. Exposure of the pulp (nerve) of the tooth. This would require alternate treatments.
- D. Subsequent abscess or infection due to trauma of placing filling.

I hereby acknowledge that (1) I have read and understood the information provided in this form, (2) The procedure set forth has been adequately explained to me by the Dentist, (3) The risks, the expected benefits and/or complications of such procedure, as well as any alternative methods of treatment and their risks and benefits have been explained by the Dentist, (4) I have had the chance to ask questions, (5) I have received all the information I desire concerning the procedure, and (6) I authorized and consent to the performance of the procedure.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient (Or Parent/Legal Guardian if patient is a minor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

**Dental Board of California: Dental Material Fact Sheet Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the 2019 Dental Board of California Dental Materials Fact Sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient (Or Parent/Legal Guardian if patient is a minor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

## 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

2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1550, Sacramento, CA 95815

[www.dbc.ca.gov](http://www.dbc.ca.gov)

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### *The Facts About Fillings*

Reprinted in 2019

## *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

**T**he 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

