

Fillings: Tooth-colored (composite) and Silver (amalgam)

After Treatment

If anesthetic was used, please be careful not to bite your cheek or tongue. Please do not eat or drink anything too hot or cold until the anesthetic has worn off.

Composite fillings (tooth colored) are hardened at the office with a curing light, so there is no special care needed for them after leaving the office. For amalgam (silver) fillings, do not eat anything for at least an hour after you leave the dental office so the material has a chance to harden.

We try to adjust your occlusion (bite) while you are here at the office, but occasionally because of the numbness you can't feel a slight high spot. If your tooth feels funny when you bite down, call us for a quick adjustment appointment. Do not think that this will get better. If you fail to have this adjusted, you could bruise your periodontal ligament. A small high spot can also cause hot and cold sensitivity.

When decay is close to the nerve, there is always a possibility that the tooth could abscess after the filling is placed, even though there are no signs of infection at the time. We will try to tell you in advance if it we think you could require a root canal in the future. However, variations in tooth anatomy (such as tiny extensions of the pulp that are imperceptible) may make it impossible to determine if there are going to be any pulpal problems in the future.

If you have sensitivity after the filling is placed, give us a call. Some sensitivity may be expected if the filling was deep, but the problem could also indicate a problem with the seal or margin. With composite fillings, a drop of saliva between the tooth and filling can prevent the filling from sealing. This happens rarely, but we need to check this out if you are experiencing sensitivity.

Avoid chewing extremely hard or crunchy items such as hard candy, ice, raw carrots, and fingernails.

Maintain your regular preventative care. It's critical for keeping your new fillings healthy.