



ARE DENTAL

SEALANTS

WORTH IT FOR KIDS?

**A PARENT'S GUIDE TO CAVITY
PREVENTION.**



What Are Dental Sealants?

Dental sealants are thin protective coatings that are painted onto the chewing surfaces of molars.

They are most often used on permanent back teeth because those teeth do the most chewing and have the deepest grooves.

Think of sealants like a raincoat for your child's teeth.

They do not replace brushing, flossing, fluoride, or healthy habits, but they can help protect the areas that are hardest for kids to clean well.



The Tooth Shop™

Why Back Teeth Are So Cavity-Prone

Molars are not smooth like front teeth. They have little valleys, grooves, and pits where food and bacteria can settle. Even toothbrush bristles may not fully reach into these deeper areas.

For kids, this is especially important because:

- Molars are harder to reach
- Brushing technique is still developing
- Snacks and drinks may increase cavity risk
- Deep grooves can trap bacteria
- Permanent molars need to last a lifetime

The first permanent molars usually come in around age 6. The second permanent molars often come in around age 12.

These are key windows when sealants may be recommended.



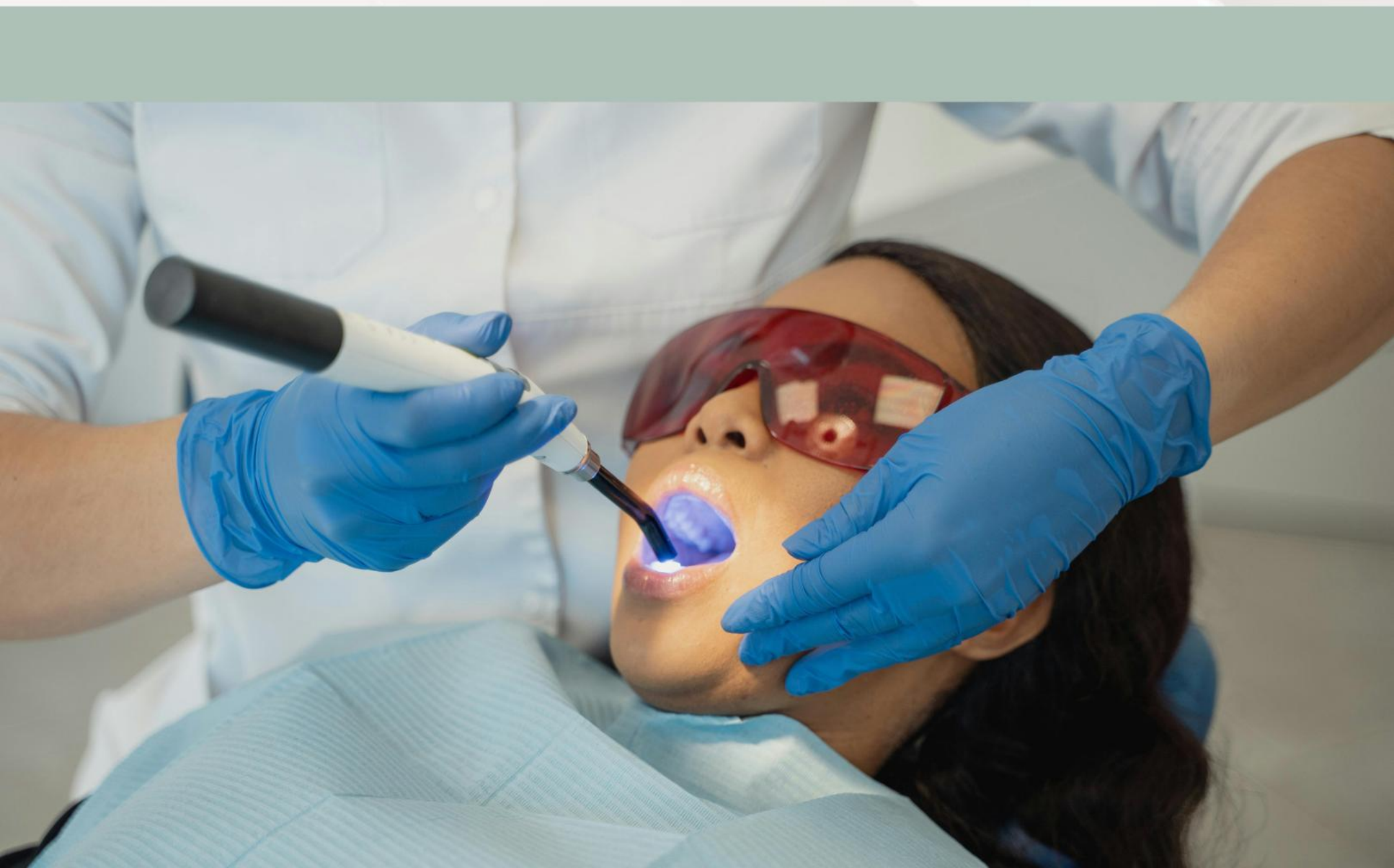
How Do Sealants Work?

Sealants create a smooth protective layer over the grooves of the tooth.

The process is simple:

1. The tooth is cleaned.
2. The tooth is dried.
3. A special material is placed on the chewing surface.
4. The sealant is hardened with a light.
5. Your child can go back to normal eating soon after.
6. There are no shots. No drilling. No numbing.

Most kids do great with sealants because the appointment is quick and comfortable.



Are Sealants Necessary?

Not every child needs sealants on every tooth.

But for many kids, sealants are a smart preventive choice, especially if they have deep grooves, a history of cavities, difficulty brushing well, or a higher risk for tooth decay.

At The Tooth Shop, we look at your child's teeth, habits, cavity risk, and stage of development before recommending sealants.

The goal is not to do more dentistry than your child needs.

The goal is to prevent bigger problems later.



Are Sealants Worth the Cost?

In many cases, yes.

Sealants are usually much less expensive than treating a cavity. More importantly, they can help your child avoid the discomfort, stress, and time involved with fillings.

A sealant is preventive.

A filling is treatment after damage has already happened.

For parents, sealants can be a worthwhile investment because they help protect permanent teeth during the years when kids are still learning to brush consistently and effectively.

Insurance may also cover sealants, especially for children. Coverage varies by plan, so it is always worth checking your benefits.



Do Sealants Mean My Child Will Never Get Cavities?

No.

Sealants are helpful, but they are not magic. A child can still get cavities between teeth, near the gumline, or on teeth that are not sealed.

Sealants can also wear down over time and may need to be checked or repaired.

That is why sealants work best as part of a full prevention plan that includes:

- Brushing twice daily with fluoride toothpaste
- Flossing between teeth
- Regular dental checkups
- Limiting frequent sugary snacks and drinks
- Drinking more water
- Using fluoride when recommended

Sealants protect one important area. They do not replace the basics.



When Should Kids Get Sealants?

Sealants are often recommended soon after permanent molars come in.

For many children, that means around:

- Age 6 for first permanent molars
- Age 12 for second permanent molars

Some children may benefit earlier or later depending on how their teeth develop.

The best time to place a sealant is before a cavity starts.

That is why regular dental visits matter. We can watch for when those molars erupt and recommend sealants at the right time.



Other Frequently Asked Questions

How long do sealants last?

Sealants can last for several years, but they are not permanent. At each checkup, we look to make sure they are still intact and doing their job. If a sealant chips, wears down, or comes loose, it can often be repaired or replaced. The good news is that sealant checks are quick and easy during routine dental visits.

Are sealants safe?

Yes. Dental sealants have been used safely for decades and are commonly recommended for children at risk for cavities.

As with any dental recommendation, parents should feel comfortable asking questions. We are happy to talk through the materials, the process, and whether sealants make sense for your child.

You should never feel pressured into treatment you do not understand.

What Parents Should Ask Before Saying Yes

If sealants are recommended, here are a few good questions to ask:

- Which teeth need sealants?
- Are these baby teeth or permanent teeth?
- Is my child at higher risk for cavities?
- Does insurance usually cover this?
- How long should the sealants last?
- How will you check them over time?

A good recommendation should come with a clear explanation.



More Questions About Dental Sealants?

Our team is here to help you make informed decisions with confidence.

Schedule an evaluation today.

480-525-7110

- ✓ Child-friendly environment
- ✓ Honest, personalized guidance
- ✓ Focused on long-term health
- ✓ Serving families in Gilbert, AZ



WHY FAMILIES TRUST THE TOOTH SHOP

Families choose The Tooth Shop because we focus on:

- Honest recommendations
- Clear communication
- Long-term oral health
- Child-friendly care
- Helping parents feel informed and confident

We're here to help families understand their options without pressure or confusion.



Meet Dr. Perkins

Dr. Jaron Beau Perkins, DMD, is a Pediatric Dental Specialist focused on creating a calm, positive experience for children and families. He earned his degree in Exercise and Wellness from Arizona State University, attended Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, and completed his pediatric dental residency at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Over the past 13 years, Dr. Perkins has practiced in rural and underserved communities in Pennsylvania and Prescott, AZ, treating complex pediatric cases and severe decay. These experiences shaped his compassionate, creative approach to care. He is a member of the AAPD and AAFE.



The Tooth Shop™



"My goal is to help every child feel safe, understood, and confident at the dentist while building healthy habits that last a lifetime."

Jaron Perkins, DMD

Ready for a Better First Dental Visit?



The Tooth
ShopTM

We'd love to meet your family.

Schedule your child's
appointment today.

(480) 427-0531

Book Appointment

- ✓ Kid-friendly environment
- ✓ Experienced with anxious children
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