## Fissure sealant, explained

Fissure sealant has since the 1970s been widely used as a means to prevent caries, dental decay, of chewing surfaces on permanent molars.

Fissure sealant has been used both as a preventive measure to prevent caries manifestation as well as therapeutic to prevent existing decay from progressing any further.

Fissure sealant as prevention is always recommended.

Therapeutic use of fissure sealant is recommended as a non-invasive method to stop further development of superficial caries on permanent molars.

If fissure sealant is used as a therapeutically to treat a superficial caries lesion it is important to attend regular dental check ups to ensure the fissure sealant remains intact. If the fissure sealant is lost the caries lesion is likely to progress.

Studies have shown a caries reduction effect of 30-70% compared to teeth without fissure sealants.

## How to do a fissure sealant

The tooth chewing surface is cleaned with a soft brush and a cleaning gel applied. The gel is rinsed off after 30-60 seconds and the tooth intensely dried. The fissure sealant is then applied to the tooth surface and dried with a light cure.

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Molar without fissure sealant

Molar with fissure sealant

