

Family Dental Group

Office Policy - Fillings

Our office only uses mercury-free (composite) fillings.

White fillings: White (metal-free) fillings are an alternative to silver (mercury - amalgam) fillings. White fillings are made of a strong composite resin that is matched to the surrounding tooth color. In the past, white fillings were placed only on front teeth, but a stronger, more durable material has been developed that can withstand the chewing pressure of back teeth.

White fillings are often preferable because:

- ☺ Many patients prefer mercury-free fillings.
- ☺ Patients with sensitivity to heat or cold find metal-free fillings to be more comfortable.
- ☺ Cosmetic reasons.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do white or composite fillings cost more?

Composites require more care in placement due to number of different steps involved. Also, composites are cured by a powerful light. To insure proper curing, composite must be placed incrementally and each stage must be cured for 20-30 seconds. Therefore, it often takes more time and skill to place a composite restoration.

Will my insurance cover these tooth-colored fillings?

Every patient's dental plan is different. While some plans pay for composite fillings regardless of their location in the mouth, most dental plans will define which teeth are eligible for the additional reimbursement. Some plans pay composite fees only from cuspid to cuspid. Some pay the composite restoration fee on the first bicuspid but not the second bicuspid, and others will exclude only the molars, giving an alternate amalgam fee instead.

When a dental plan pays an amalgam fee, instead of the composite fee that was billed, it is not implying that the composite restoration was not the best choice for the patient. It is only saying that the premium paid for the dental plan defines, and often limits, the amount the plan can pay for certain services. When a dental plan reduces its payment to a silver filling fee, the difference is the patient's responsibility. Our front deskstaff can provide an estimate for the difference in cost.