

Aesthetic Fillings and Inlays

We can replace your old mercury contained fillings with a tooth-colored material. The material is bonded to your existing tooth structure, resulting in a stronger, more durable filling... that looks completely natural. It would give you many reasons to smile.

Should the cavity become too large, the inlays/onlays (inserts) become the most reliable and strong alternative. They are produced in the dental lab using special technology to provide the strength and long lasting results. Before, in the situations like these we would resort to making a crown for such a tooth. No more. We do not need to strip the tooth down in order to fit the crown; we use the inserts instead, preserving the remaining tooth structure making it serve naturally. It looks great and it is strong.

After



Before



When Fillings Won't Work

The tooth decay starts on the surface and expand inward and outward. In the beginning when the decay is relatively small it can be reliably filled directly. As the decay progress and more of the tooth structure needs to be replaced the direct fill technique (in one visit) may not be so good; the strengths of the tooth and the longevity of the filling become problematic. Then the indirect technique that involves the dental laboratory produced hardened material is used to restore the affected tooth. It creates a stronger restoration and is better controlled during the bonding process which attaches this inserts to the tooth. Since the tooth is prepared before an impression is taken in such a way as to preserve the remaining tooth structure the replacement piece is perfectly matches residual tooth structures inside and outside. In the past when the tooth was considerably decayed the crown used to be made. That always requires a substantial preparation of the tooth. Instead, the dental inserts made from a tooth colored reinforced material which is neutral to the body (biocompatible) allow saving the tooth tissue with minimum grinding, bringing back the strength and beauty, get rid of any potentially harmful metallic substructure. The onlay means that this insert covers the top of the tooth so that you bite on it making the restoration and the tooth stronger.

Why White Ceramic Fillings are Better than Silver Fillings

The silver fillings are, in fact, not made from silver. They represent a blend (amalgam) of several metals, which hardens after they are mixed together with mercury. Therefore, mercury makes about half of the "silver filling". In the past the common belief was that after the mixture is hardened it becomes a new substance. It turned out that mercury continues to evaporate from these fillings every time you chew, or drink something hot.

There is an evidence of the increased mercury level in blood and urine associated with these fillings. The harmful effect of mercury on human body is well known - mercury is a heavy metal poison leading to many health problems reflected by chronic fatigue, irritability, headaches, depression, loss of memory and concentration, etc. Is the amount of the mercury evaporating from these fillings considerable enough to affect the general health? This remains the subject of many debates and controversies.

In some countries the use of such material is forbidden and in the US the scrap from these fillings considered to be an environmental hazard. Without taking sides in those debates, we invite you to study this issue and come to your own conclusions. The ceramic fillings, on another hand, are esthetically pleasant; they blend with your teeth and are made from a very strong polymers or porcelain. Sculptured either directly on the tooth in one office visit or custom produced for you in the lab the ceramic replacements are not only beautifully replicate the original shape of your tooth but also are firmly fastened to it by the process called bonding. What is also very special about it is the fact that, unlike silver fillings, this process includes the creation of a tough layer on the prepared surface hermetically sealing your tooth from bacteria that cause tooth decay.

It's been almost two-decades since we used mercury contained fillings maintaining safe and mercury free environment in our office. Instead, we have been pioneering and perfecting the technique of ceramic replacements that gives you so many benefits and advantages.

Testimonial

"I hated the way the metal fillings made my teeth look black. The new white fillings look a lot better. I resented the presence of mercury in my mouth and now all this stuff has gone. I am happy. Thanks." —Mr. P. 36

"...My mom and dad always called me "sunshine" for my big smile. In years the dark fillings in my teeth put my smile to a holt. After all this wonderful job you did I am a sunshine again. And I keep smiling knowing that I do not have all this bad stuff in my teeth...Thank you, Dr. Joffe for putting my smile back on my face". —Mrs. A. 48

"I really appreciate the fact that you've been able to save a lot of my tooth without grinding it down. The insert looks absolutely natural. Thank you very much; I really think you are an exceptional dentist." —Mrs. K. 46