

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DENTAL SEALANT AND FLUORIDE VARNISH?

What is a Dental Sealant?

- A dental sealant is a thin plastic coating placed on the biting surface of permanent molars by a dental professional.
- These teeth have many small grooves and pits where germs can hide and cause tooth decay.
- Sealants protect teeth especially when children are most susceptible to having decay.
- Sealants are less expensive than a filling.
- Sealants may last many years and are checked at regular dental visits.
- Sealants are easy to apply and require no needles or drills.



What is Fluoride Varnish?

- Fluoride varnish is a thick liquid painted on the teeth with a small disposable brush.
- It strengthens tooth enamel and can help prevent dental decay.
- The fluoride varnish is flavored.
- Easy to apply and dries quickly.
- Can be applied in any setting; school, health center, medical office, and dental office.



Why Do Kids Need Fluoride?

- Tooth decay (a cavity) is the most common childhood disease.
- U.S. children miss over 51 million hours of school because of dental problems.
- Tooth decay is a common preventable disease.
- Cavities in baby and permanent teeth can cause pain and prevent children from eating, speaking, sleeping, and learning properly.
- It is important to protect both primary (baby) teeth and permanent teeth.
- Children don't lose all of their primary teeth until age 12 or older.

Sealants and Fluoride Varnish Together Can Help Prevent Tooth Decay!