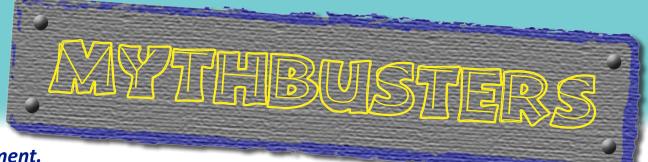


Presents...

DENTAL SEALANTS



Myth: Dental sealants are a new treatment.

Fact: Dentists have been applying dental sealants since the 1960s.

Myth: Dental sealants are just for children.

Fact: Dental sealants may be applied to molars (back teeth) of adults too.

Myth: Dental sealants hurt.

Fact: The treatment is simple. The dentist or dental hygienist paints the sealant on your molars (back teeth), with no anesthesia, and within minutes.

Myth: Dental sealants are expensive.

Fact: Sealants are not expensive. For children, most private dental insurance providers and MO HealthNet (Medicaid) cover dental sealants at no charge.

Myth: I will need to get sealants reapplied.

Fact: You may only need to get one application. Sealants can potentially last for over 10 years.

Myth: You will not save any money by getting a sealant.

Fact: It is estimated that every \$1 invested in preventive dentistry saves \$38 in the future.

Myth: Dental sealants will need to be removed.

Fact: Sealants do not need to be removed.

The sealant material will gradually wear off.

Myth: It takes a long time to place sealants.

Fact: It only takes a few minutes to place sealants.

Myth: You do not have to care for sealants.

Fact: By visiting your dentist at least once a year, he or she can examine the sealant to be sure it is still providing protection from decay. Caring for your mouth by brushing your teeth twice a day and flossing once a day will keep your teeth healthy.

Myth: Teeth will decay underneath the sealant.

Fact: Sealants prevent decay from happening. The protective barrier prevents bacteria from getting on the teeth and the sealed, smooth area is easier to clean.

Myth: Sealants do not prevent decay.

Fact: With proper oral health care, including brushing and flossing, sealants prevent cavities by up to 80%.

Myth: Dental sealants are unsafe for children.

Fact: Dental sealants are safe and help prevent decay in permanent molars (back teeth). Consult with your dentist to know if sealants are the right choice for your child.



Office of Dental Health (573) 751-5874 oralhealth@health.mo.gov Learn more about Dental Sealants at:

www.cdc.gov/oralhealth
health.mo.gov/living/families/oralhealth/