

Composite (tooth colored) Fillings

You have received a composite filling for one or more of the following reasons:

- Decay
- Fracture/chipping/wear
- Food trapping between your teeth
- Damaged or failing existing filling
- Cosmetic reasons

After the procedure, you will be numb for approximately 1 to 3 hours. Avoid eating when you are numb so as not to injure your LIP, CHEEK or TONGUE.

You may have some sensitivity to hot, cold and even pressure at first; we expect this sensitivity to diminish over the next few weeks. Your gums or jaw may be tender or bruised due to the injection or instrumentation during the procedure as well. Your body takes time to get used to the new filling and bite. Over-the-counter pain relievers (Ibuprofen, Aleve or Tylenol) may be taken to alleviate the discomfort if necessary. Take as instructed on the bottle.

Sensitivity can be prolonged in some instances when:

- It was sore to begin with.
- It had a large/deep filling to begin with.
- The decay/preparation was very deep.
- You have minor fracture lines in your tooth.
- You clench and grind.
- Your bite is "off" (it is difficult to bite normally when you are numb and therefore difficult to adjust your filling accurately).
- For no apparent reason- We understand that it may be frustrating when the tooth did not hurt to begin with and you feel discomfort after placing the new filling. Approximately 3-5% of filled teeth require root canal therapy to alleviate the sensitivity; some we expect, some we don't.

If the sensitivity does not begin to improve within 3 to 5 days, please contact the office. We will need a 10 minute appointment to check and/or adjust the bite on your new filling (even if the bite feels ok).

We are committed not only to quality esthetic dentistry, but your comfort as well.