



Steven M. O'Neal, DDS

FAMILY AND COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Defining the Art of Dentistry

Dental Sealants

I consider dental sealants to be one of the most valuable services that we provide here at the practice of Steven M. O'Neal, DDS. Dental sealants cover over and seal off the natural grooves on the tops of molars and premolars. These natural grooves develop during the formation of the chewing cusps and can be quite deep — making these areas an easy target for bacteria and decay to destroy good tooth structure.

Dental sealants can be applied in many ways. The technique I like to use is to clean away any debris, bacteria, and/or initial stages of decay — using our silica micro-abrasion wand. This gently prepares the tooth surface to receive the dental sealants without the need for anesthetic! The material of choice I use is a tooth-colored, fluoride-releasing composite that physically and chemically bonds to the prepared tooth. So, the chance for bacterial invasion in the future is minimal, if any.

Dental sealants are a great benefit for the protection of teeth and provide service for many years. Dental sealants do not, however, remove the need to floss daily along the sides of our teeth where the toothbrush cannot adequately clean. Usually right after a back tooth erupts is the best time to place dental sealants; therefore, young adults between the ages of 6-7 and 11-14 years old are ideal candidates. Please contact any one of our friendly staff at the office of Steven M. O'Neal, DDS, if you have any questions or want to benefit from dental sealants.