

# TOOTH-COLORED COMPOSITE FILLING

A tooth-colored composite filling or bonding is used to repair a tooth or change its shape.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What materials are in a tooth-colored filling?

- Mixed particles of tooth-colored resins designed to match the color of the natural tooth with glass particles added for strength.
- Light-sensitive adhesive particles that bind the components together allowing them to be shaped.

### 2. What are the benefits of a tooth-colored filling?

- It matches the color of the teeth.
- It can be added to a tooth in order to alter its shape.
- As it is bonded onto the tooth, it requires little removal of healthy tooth structure.
- It is completed in one appointment.
- Hardening by a specialized light permits immediate chewing after placement.

### 3. What are the risks of a tooth-colored filling?

- It may discolor over a period of time.
- The larger the filling the greater the risk it may chip or fracture.
- As with other dental filling materials:
  - Placement may cause the tooth to be sensitive to cold for up to 3 months.
  - Decay can occur in the natural tooth around the edges of the filling.
  - The filling seals the tooth but does not protect it from breaking should its size result in a weakened tooth.

### 4. What are the alternatives to a tooth-colored filling?

- A silver [amalgam] filling.
- A gold or porcelain [tooth-colored ceramic] filling.

### 5. What are possible post-treatment concerns after a tooth-colored filling is placed?

- Bite problems or using the teeth for anything other than chewing food may cause:
  - The filling to break, loosen or lose its seal, causing sensitivity decay and possible tooth fracture.
  - An increase in the risk of the tooth in which the filling has been placed cracking or breaking.
- Bleaching the teeth will not lighten a tooth-colored filling.



Fractured Tooth



Repaired with  
Tooth-Colored Filling



Silver Filling



Replaced with  
Tooth-Colored Filling