



## Fillings

### Teeth require fillings because they are:

- Broken
- Decayed
- Worn down
- Discoloured

Tooth decay can occur when acid is produced from plaque, which builds up on your teeth. If plaque is allowed to build up, it can cause caries (holes in the teeth)

### What colour will my filling be?

This will depend on the extent of the filling and suitability. We do offer private tooth coloured fillings. Speak to your dentist if you have a preference so that options and prices can be discussed.

### Things to remember:

It is not uncommon for a filled tooth to be sensitive to hot and cold after the filling is done. This sensitivity should be temporary in nature. If it persists or gets worse, you should contact us by phone.

Sometimes with decay that goes deep into the tooth other problems arise. Most decay is painless in its early stages, which is why we as dentists recommend people come to see us on a regular basis. If decay is allowed to occur over a prolonged period it puts at risk the health of the tooth, threatening the nerve or even the tooth itself.

If the decay goes deep into the tooth the nerve can begin to die. We will warn you if we think this is the case. Despite our best efforts, the bacterial infection related to deep decay can kill off the nerve in the tooth. This is usually when a root filling is needed to save the tooth. If you experience a lot of pain and discomfort after a filling, it is usually the result of deep decay, even if you had no pain in the tooth before the filling.



### What other options do I have?

- Leave and do nothing **BUT** this will not treat the underlying issue and the tooth may either start to cause pain or break down further a need future root treat or extraction
- Place a crown – if the tooth is heavily broken down this may be a better choice as it will give strength and support **BUT** it is more expensive than a simple filling and there is a 1 in 10 chance that the nerve will die after a tooth is crowned, in which case the tooth would require a root filling to save it and it may need a new crown
- Extract the tooth – this will remove a potential infection for the area but will leave a gap that may require future treatment

DENTISTRY FOR ALL

