SEALANTS

You may know that sealants are a protective plastic coating placed over deep grooves in teeth to prevent potential decay. You may not know that all sealants are not created equally. Both the type of material and the placement procedure play a big role in sealant success.

Before placing a sealant the tooth must be meticulously cleaned of all plaque and debris. Organic material can reside in the deep grooves and prevent a proper bond for the sealant. Moisture, tartar or calculus will also prevent a proper bond.

At Giannini & Gray Dental Partners we use the following protocol to insure sealant success:

1. The tooth is cleaned with prophy paste or pumice.
2. The "organic plug" located in the deep grooves is removed via micro-abrasion. (This also increases the adhesion of the sealant.)
3. A 33% phosphoric acid etch is placed on the enamel for 45 seconds to further increase the sealant bonding strength.
4. A special bonding agent is placed on the tooth and into the deep grooves. This bonding material is hardened with a special wavelength curing light.
5. Finally, the sealant is placed. We use a unique formula that not only seals the tooth but will actually release fluoride into the surrounding tooth structure if an acidic attack occurs. This revolutionary material is actually "rechargeable" – absorbing fluoride the next time an excess is detected – as during a fluoride treatment. If the pH around the sealant is not altered the fluoride will stay bound up in the sealant until needed.

How long should a sealant last? Most industry experts agree that 4-6 years is a normal lifetime. At Giannini & Gray Dental Partners, we feel that our process is so comprehensive that we will guarantee your sealants for your life.
Simply follow routine oral hygiene and maintain regular recare appointments.
This "ounce of prevention" is certainly one of the greatest advances in dentistry and we at Giannini & Gray Dental Partners are proud to offer this most thorough protocol for a lifetime of cavity protection.