

Dental Filling Options

Dentistry is constantly changing. Thanks to advances in modern dental materials and techniques we now have the ability to create more natural looking smiles. Dental researchers have developed materials such as ceramics and polymers called “composite resins” that offer an alternative to amalgam (silver) fillings.

Dental amalgam has been used by dentists for over a century and remains a strong, durable treatment option. However, amalgam fillings do have their disadvantages. Darkening of the tooth, breakdown of the silver material in large fillings and corrosion of the silver metal leading to leakage can occur. In addition, questions have arisen regarding the safety of dental amalgam relating to its mercury content.

In response to these problems, researchers have developed newer dental materials. The technology behind these new materials allows them to bond to the tooth structure, actually strengthening the tooth. These materials are classified as “composite resins”.

There are advantages and disadvantages to all dental materials. There is no data to show that any one material lasts longer than another. The longevity of a dental restoration is influenced mainly by mouth chemistry and mechanical stresses placed on the material. Therefore, it is our responsibility as dentists to evaluate each patient individually, and make recommendations as to which material is in the best interest of each patient.

At Longwood Dental Group, we feel that composite materials are the treatment of choice. These materials come after decades of research and their advantage far outweigh their disadvantages.

To our patients with dental insurance programs: it is important that you examine your plan carefully and understand your coverage regarding fillings. Our treatment is predicated on what is best for our patients and not what an insurance company covers. It has been our experience that most insurance carriers are paying for these newer “composite” fillings on a partial basis.

We do our best to be knowledgeable regarding all dental insurance plans, however there are far too many dental plans for us to know all their limitations. Please be aware of your coverage, check your booklet, or inquire directly with your insurance carrier regarding coverage.

Our goal is to deliver what we feel is the finest dentistry that can be provided.

The Doctors and Staff of Longwood Dental Group