

PHILADELPHIA DENTAL ASSOCIATES

2000 Market Street, Suite 1405
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Tel(215)564-9010 Fax(215)564-1184

RESIN (White) FILLINGS

Effective April 1, 2003 this office uses composite resin (white) material for ALL fillings. Our reasons for this decision are numerous. Not only is composite resin more natural looking, it is a stronger material that structurally reinforces the tooth by being chemically adhered to the tooth – sometimes approaching the strength of a sound tooth. Composite resin materials have been used for over fifteen years now and have hundreds of research studies supporting their use and are approved by the American Dental Association.

Composite resin fillings also do not have as many drawbacks as amalgam (silver) filling material. Amalgam can stain or even corrode the tooth over time. Also, the amalgam material contains mercury, which has been associated with many potential health risks for both the patient and the dental staff. Perhaps the biggest drawback about amalgam is its coefficient of thermal expansion and contraction- it can break teeth. It also cannot be bonded to the tooth like resin fillings. Lastly, amalgam restorations require the removal of sound tooth structure for strength (adequate thickness).

Be aware of your insurance benefits for posterior resin fillings. Some plans have a policy of reducing or even denying benefits for these procedures. The patient may have an increased financial responsibility for posterior resin fillings. If you have any questions regarding the cost of these procedures please contact your insurance company or inquire at the front desk.

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