

White fillings

White fillings are now very popular. They are certainly much better looking than silver fillings but it can be argued that they are not quite as long lasting.

White fillings can be used to restore front teeth which may have been damaged by decay or trauma, and also for smaller fillings in back teeth.

White fillings can be completed in the mouth in a single visit where they are placed like a silver filling and set with a special light. This is most suitable for smaller fillings.



Alternatively once the decay has been removed and the tooth fully prepared, a mould can be taken of the filling cavity and the white filling is then constructed in the laboratory.



The final restoration is then bonded to the tooth with powerful bonding agents at a second appointment. While the laboratory work is underway, a temporary filling material is placed in the tooth.

This technique is better for large fillings and the colour match is usually more accurate but the treatment is more expensive than a conventional white filling.

Other filling material options

The best filling material is considered by many to be gold. Some people do not like the appearance of gold in their mouth, this is a personal choice. Gold fillings can be cast in the laboratory using a similar process to that of cast white fillings.

Silver amalgam has a long history as an adequate filling material but is poor cosmetically.

White fillings are comparatively new and, although they do seem to be the most commonly chosen, they may not last as long as silver fillings. Most regular attenders tend to choose white fillings conceding the technical problems for a better appearance.

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