

WHITE FILLINGS

Q Why should I consider white fillings?

A Most people have fillings of one sort or another in their mouths. Nowadays fillings are not only functional, but can be natural looking as well. Many people don't want silver fillings that show when they laugh or smile because they are more conscious about the way they look.

Q Are they expensive?

A Costs can vary quite a lot from dentist to dentist. Costs usually depend on the size and type of white filling used and the time it takes to complete the treatment. Costs may also vary from region to region. As a guide, white fillings start from around £40 each, but your dentist will be able to give you an idea of the cost before you agree to treatment.

Q Are they as good as silver amalgam fillings?

A White fillings used to be considered less long lasting than silver amalgam fillings. But there are now new materials available with properties comparable to silver amalgam, and these are proving to be very successful. The life expectancy of a white filling can depend greatly on where it is in your mouth and how heavily your teeth come together when you bite. Your dentist can advise you on the life expectancy of your fillings.

Q Is it worth replacing my amalgam fillings with white ones?

A It is usually best to change fillings only when your dentist decides that an old filling needs replacing. If so you can ask to have it replaced in a tooth-coloured material. However old metal fillings can be replaced to improve cosmetics and your smile. Your dentist can assess how risky this

might be and advise you on what treatment to follow.

Q What are tooth-coloured fillings made of?

A This can vary, but they are mainly made of glass particles, synthetic resin and a setting ingredient. Your dentist should be able to give you more information about the particular material that they use.

Q Where can I get them done?

A Most dental practices offer white fillings as a normal part of the treatment they give you. However, white fillings are classed as a 'cosmetic' treatment, and you can therefore only have them if you pay for them.

Q Are there alternatives to fillings?

There are alternatives such as crowns and inlays although they can cost a lot more. Veneers can be used on front teeth instead of crowns or fillings. A discussion with your dentist will ensure the right treatment is undertaken.