

Metal fillings

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What are metal fillings?

A filling replaces part of a tooth that has been lost due to decay or through accidental damage.

Metal fillings are made of dental amalgam (a mixture of mercury with other metals, including silver, tin and copper).

Amalgam is soft at first, but quickly becomes hard once placed in the tooth.

What will Keval do?

Keval will:

- usually numb the tooth and adjacent area with an injection – some small fillings may not need this
- remove the decay, together with any old filling material, using a small, high speed drill
- remove any weak part of the tooth that might break later
- shape the cavity, so that the tooth will hold the filling in place
- possibly put a cement lining in the bottom of the cavity before inserting the filling
- pack soft amalgam tightly into the cavity. Keval may place a thin metal band around the tooth prior to packing in the amalgam to help control the shape of the filling
- carve the filling into the tooth
- ask you to close your teeth together gently, to check that the filling is the right height and is comfortable
- make any necessary small adjustments to the filling at the next visit

What are the benefits?

- If decay is left unchecked, it can spread deep into the tooth, causing pain and infection. This could mean the tooth has to be root filled or even taken out
- A filling can prevent further toothache or discomfort