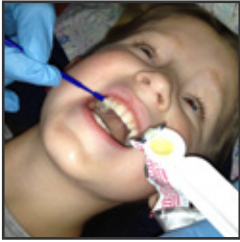


# What is the difference between fluoride varnish, dental sealants, and SDF?



## What is Fluoride Varnish?

- Fluoride varnish is a thick liquid painted on the teeth with a small disposable brush. It makes the tooth stronger and can help prevent cavities.
- Fluoride varnish is flavored, easy to apply and dries quickly.
- Fluoride varnish can be applied anywhere: at a school, health center, medical office, or dental office.



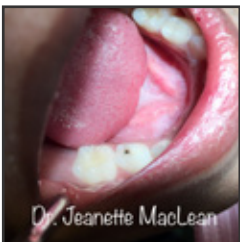
## What is a Dental Sealant?

- A dental sealant is a thin protective coating placed on the biting surface of back teeth by a dental professional.
- Back teeth have many small grooves and pits where germs can hide and start cavities. Sealants protect these teeth, especially when children are most at risk for cavities.
- Sealants are less expensive than a filling, easy to apply, and require no needles or drills.
- Sealants may last many years and are checked at regular dental visits.



## What is SDF?

- SDF (silver diamine fluoride) is a liquid that can be brushed on teeth to prevent cavities and stop them from growing after they have formed.
- SDF is applied without using needles or a drill.
- SDF has both silver and fluoride in it. Silver kills the germs that cause cavities, and fluoride helps to make the tooth stronger.
- Cavities treated with SDF turn black. This is a sign that SDF is working. After SDF treatment, a dental professional may cover the black treated area with a white filling, if needed.
- SDF has been approved by the FDA for treating sensitive teeth and has received “breakthrough therapy designation” for treating cavities.
- VT Medicaid covers SDF treatment for children and adults.



**For more information:**

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