

Dental fillings: porcelain, amalgam or composite resin? - Smile Solutions

Canonical: https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/dental-articles/article/dental_fillings_composite/

Details:

Dental fillings: porcelain, amalgam or composite resin? - Smile Solutions Skip to content Book Appointment Now Our Services General Dentistry Dental Cleans and Hygienists Wisdom Teeth Emergency Dentistry Root Canal Tooth Fillings Chipped or Cracked Teeth TMD & Teeth Grinding Snoring & Sleep Apnoea Sport Mouthguards Dental Anxiety Cosmetic Dentistry Porcelain Veneers & Crowns Same Day Porcelain Veneers™ Composite Bonding Professional Teeth Whitening CEREC Restorations Invisalign No Braces All-on-4® Dental Implants Gummy Smile Complimentary Cosmetic Consultation Orthodontics Invisalign No Braces Orthodontic Braces Children's Braces and Invisalign Jaw Surgery Dental Implants All-on-4® Dental Implants Conventional & Immediate Implants Dental Bridges Bone Grafting For Implants Dentures Specialist Care Prosthodontists Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Periodontists Orthodontists Endodontists Paediatric Dentists Complex Dentistry Children's Dentistry First Visit To The Dentist Children's Dental Emergencies Children's Braces and Invisalign Child Dental Benefit Schedule Kids Teeth Cleaning Tips About Us Why Choose Us Our Team Our Location Technology Before & After Gallery Payment Plans Packages & Offers Contact Us Call Us 13 13 96 Smile Solutions 10 Oct 2018 Dental fillings: porcelain, amalgam or composite resin? Types of dental fillings Dentistry has seen great changes in technology and materials used for dental fillings over the past few years. Let's discuss the three main materials that have been used for fillings and how they differ from one another. Amalgam Amalgam silver-coloured dental fillings have been around since the 1800s. However, the type of material used today became most popular in the 1960s. Amalgam is made up of a metal alloy of mercury, silver, tin and copper. It begins as a soft filling material that is placed into a prepared tooth and hardens over a short period of time. It is a very reliable and durable material that was used for many years for dental fillings due to its success in a moist environment. However, the dark colour, its use of mercury and its difficulty to bond well to the tooth surface has driven a quest to find an alternative filling material. Additionally, amalgam expands and contracts and can cause cracks and fractures in the tooth as well as in the filling itself. Amalgam is not as widely used today as there are some great alternatives. Composite Resin A very popular and common dental filling is composite resin, made up of glass particles mixed with an acrylic resin. It comes in different viscosities, each favoured by the dentist for different roles. Normally, a handheld "curing" light is used to set, or harden, the material once it has been placed. This gives the clinician a much longer working time for shaping and placement than other filling materials. There are many advantages of composite resin over amalgam for filling teeth, including: Availability of multiples colour shades so the material can be matched to the tooth Increased working time for the clinician to manipulate the material to suit the tooth structure Mercury-free Composite resins are able to bond, or stick, to the tooth, which can lead to less tooth removal during preparation Easy to use for small and simple repairs and restorations In some situations, amalgam is stronger and longer lasting than composite resin, but it may still not be the material of choice and this leads us onto our third material: porcelain. Porcelain Porcelain is a very strong, tooth-coloured material. At Smile Solutions, porcelain fillings are either made by our preferred laboratories offsite, or our CEREC (Chairside Economical Restoration of Aesthetic Ceramics) technology onsite. Below are the advantages of porcelain for a dental filling: Porcelain fillings are very good for large restorations where strength is needed. Porcelain is also excellent in aesthetically returning the tooth to its natural shape Longevity and stability Colour-matching Stability CEREC porcelain dental fillings can be fabricated and placed all in one visit, on one day. Porcelain fillings can be dearer than amalgam and composite resin due to its superiority in certain dental fillings and the

technology required to fabricate them. After a thorough check-up and diagnosis, your dentist will discuss which of these materials is best suited to you. The decision will be based upon your oral health and what material will be best suited to the type of work needed, both for restoration to optimum function and appearance. Articles from Smile Solutions View Blogs Specialist Care Smile Solutions 18 Aug 2026 Endodontist vs Dentist for Root Canal: Why It Makes a Difference Read More General Smile Solutions 10 Aug 2026 Mouth Breathing: The Silent Habit That's Changing Your Face and Your Health Read More General Smile Solutions 3 Aug 2026 How Much Does a Dental Crown Cost in Melbourne? Materials Compared Read More Specialist Care Smile Solutions 18 Aug 2026 Endodontist vs Dentist for Root Canal: Why It Makes a Difference Read More General Smile Solutions 10 Aug 2026 Mouth Breathing: The Silent Habit That's Changing Your Face and Your Health Read More General Smile Solutions 3 Aug 2026 How Much Does a Dental Crown Cost in Melbourne? Materials Compared Read More Specialist Care Smile Solutions 18 Aug 2026 Endodontist vs Dentist for Root Canal: Why It Makes a Difference Read More General Smile Solutions 10 Aug 2026 Mouth Breathing: The Silent Habit That's Changing Your Face and Your Health Read More General Smile Solutions 3 Aug 2026 How Much Does a Dental Crown Cost in Melbourne? Materials Compared Read More View Blog Call Us 13 13 96 Location Level 1, 220 Collins Street Manchester Unity Building, Melbourne VIC 3000 Hours Of Service Monday – Friday: 8.00am – 6.00pm Saturday: 8.30am – 1.30pm Sunday: By Appointment Our Services General Dentistry Cosmetic Dentistry Orthodontics Specialist Care Dental Implants Children's Dentistry Emergency Dentistry Why Choose Us Our Team Media Awards Careers Technology Location Holistic Dentistry Quick Links Contact Us Articles Packages & Offers Dental Payment Plans Understanding Your Treatment Sitemap Privacy Policy Copyright © Smile Solutions. All Rights Reserved. This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply. Close Our Services General Dentistry Dental Cleans and Hygienists Wisdom Teeth Emergency Dentistry Root Canal Tooth Fillings Chipped or Cracked Teeth Snoring & Sleep Apnoea TMD & Teeth Grinding Sport Mouthguards Dental Anxiety Cosmetic Dentistry Porcelain Veneers & Crowns Same Day Porcelain Veneers™ Composite Bonding Professional Teeth Whitening CEREC Restorations Invisalign® No Braces All-on-4® Dental Implants Gummy Smile Complimentary Cosmetic Consultation Orthodontics Invisalign No Braces Orthodontic Braces Children's Braces and Invisalign Jaw Surgery Dental Implants All-on-4® Dental Implants Conventional & Immediate Implants Dental Bridges Bone Grafting For Implants Dentures Specialist Care Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Prosthodontists Orthodontists Periodontists Endodontists Paediatric Dentists Complex Dentistry Children's Dentistry First Visit To The Dentist Children's Dental Emergencies Children's Braces and Invisalign Child Dental Benefit Schedule Kids Teeth Cleaning Tips Why Choose Us Our Team Our Location Technology Awards Holistic Dentistry Before After Gallery Payment Plans Packages & Offers Contact Us Call Us 13 13 96 Close Smile Solutions AI Assistant ■ Hello! I'm here to help you with questions about Smile Solutions. How can I assist you today? Popular questions: What services does Smile Solutions offer? How can I contact Smile Solutions What are your business hours? ■■ × 0 /1000 Contact Us Call Us 13 13 96 Location Level 1, 220 Collins Street Manchester Unity Building, Melbourne VIC 3000 Hours Of Service Monday – Friday: 8.00am – 6.00pm Saturday: 8.30am – 1.30pm Sunday: By Appointment Close Book Now