

# Failing Resin Fillings

## Fillings eventually fail

A common misconception is that a filling will last forever. Composite resin fillings are durable, but they eventually will fail and need to be replaced. We consider a filling to be failing when it no longer seals out bacteria and allows them to infect the inner layers of the tooth.

Replacing a failing resin filling with a new restoration can prevent more decay from developing and keep your mouth healthy.



*Resin filling with worn edges*



*Shrunk resin allows bacteria into tooth*



*Restored resin filling*



*Failed resin filling*

## What causes a resin filling to fail?

Resin fillings have to endure an incredible amount of biting force. Over time, they become worn, and their edges can wear away.

In a few cases, the resin material may shrink after it's placed. This can open a space where the filling meets the tooth, allowing bacteria into the tooth. The shrinkage can also force the filling to pull on tooth structure as the resin shrinks, stressing the tooth.

## Replacing the filling

When we discover a failing resin filling, it's important to replace it with another restoration as soon as possible to protect your tooth. There are several types of restorations, including fillings, inlays, onlays, and crowns, and these can be fabricated from a variety of different dental materials. After doing a thorough exam, we'll recommend the best restoration for your situation.