



COMPOSITE (or white) FILLING POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

- You have just had a new filling. This is what you may feel:

- Hot Sensitivity that may last a few days
- Cold sensitivity that may last up to 8 weeks, but gradually decreasing in pain during that time period.
- Sensitivity to chewing that may last up to 8 weeks, but gradually decreasing in pain during that time period.
- After the numbing wears off, you may feel you are not biting correctly. Please call so your bite can be adjusted. You may not feel this for some time if the bite is only slightly high. Remember, when you are numb it is hard for you to judge if you are biting your teeth together correctly.

White fillings are hard right away so you can chew on them immediately, but they may be sensitive.

It is not unheard of for a filling to become loose or fall out. If a filling is left out till the next cleaning you may develop more decay and it may be larger and deeper than before.

Possible need for root canal treatment:

Any filling no matter what the size or depth may result in the need of a root canal. The symptoms you look for include:

- Hot sensitivity that lasts longer than a few weeks
- Hot sensitivity that begins after the tooth has been asymptomatic or problem free for a period of time.
- Spontaneous pain that occurs anytime during the day or night
- Swelling, either in the mouth or on the face
- Cold sensitivity that lingers on for many minutes. Sharp instantaneous reaction to cold is probably not a root canal symptom.

TOOTH BREAKAGE:

Any time a filling is placed there is less natural tooth. With less natural tooth the tooth is weaker. The filling material is not as strong as natural tooth therefore is in a weaker state. If your tooth breaks a new filling may be put in if not too large, however if it is very large a crown will be recommended to protect the remaining tooth.