



Interested in participating?

To learn more about the Oregon School-based Dental Sealant Program, please visit www.healthoregon.org/schooloralhealth

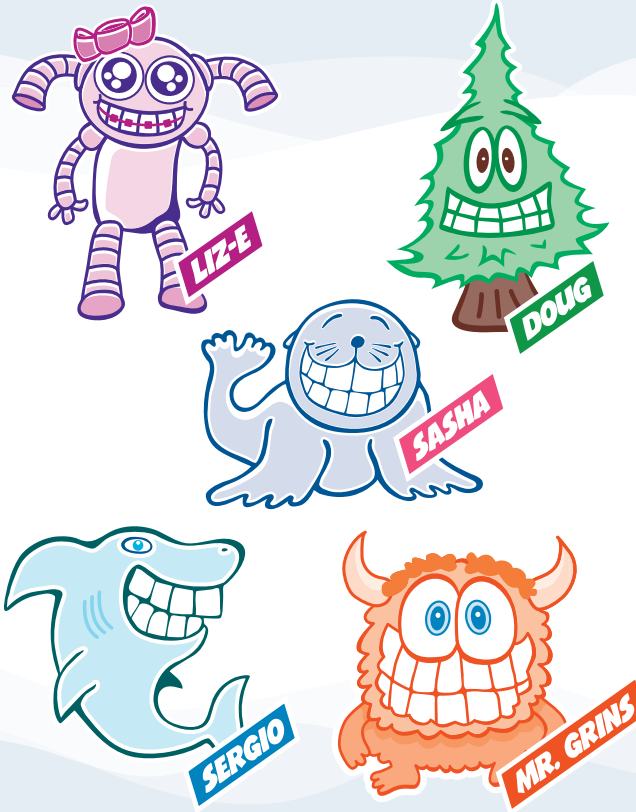
If your school would like to participate in the program, please contact the Oral Health Unit at oral.health@state.or.us or call 971-673-0348. Eligible schools will be served as funding becomes available.

After getting dental sealants

- Sealants only protect the back teeth. Children still need to brush and floss daily and use fluoride.
- Sealants may not be visible, or they may look white or cream colored.
- The teeth may feel like they do not bite together correctly for a day or two, but that feeling goes away.

Tips for a healthy smile

- Parents may need to supervise brushing and flossing.
- Brush teeth for at least two minutes, two times a day.
- Floss teeth daily.
- Use fluoride (toothpaste, varnish, fluoridated water).
- Have dental sealants applied.
- Choose healthy snacks like fruits, vegetables and cheese.
- See a dentist regularly.



This document can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request this publication in another format or language, contact the Oral Health Unit at 971-673-0348, 711 for TTY, or email oral.health@state.or.us.

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Oregon School-based Dental Sealant Program



Oregon
Health
Authority

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Oral Health Unit

The Oregon Health Authority's Oral Health Program partners with communities, elementary schools and dental care professionals, to promote and carry out a statewide, school-based dental sealant program.

Services are **FREE** for participating schools and children.

What are dental sealants?

A dental sealant is a liquid coating applied to the chewing surfaces of the back molar teeth to prevent cavities. The coating flows into the deep pits and grooves of the tooth "sealing out" bacteria and food debris that cause cavities.



PITS AND GROOVES



SEALANT

Children usually have their first set of permanent molar teeth in 1st and 2nd grades (two on the top and two on the bottom). The second set of permanent molar teeth usually comes in around 6th and 7th grades.



Are sealants safe and effective?

School-based dental sealant programs are an evidence-based practice and recommended by:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and
- Healthy People 2020

Almost all decay occurs in the molars. School-based dental sealant programs can reduce tooth decay by half.

Eligibility

- Schools are eligible if at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for the federal free and reduced lunch program.
- Students are eligible if they have parental permission.

Services provided

The Oregon School-based Dental Sealant Program provides services for 1st and 2nd graders or 1st to 5th graders in very small schools.

Any student with parental permission can receive services. The dental team screens participating children and applies dental sealants when appropriate.

How are services provided?

- 1) Registered dental hygienists use portable dental equipment onsite at participating schools.
 - Requires a 10' x 14' space
 - Takes 1–11 days, depending on school size
- 2) Screenings take about one minute per child or 15–20 minutes per class.
- 3) Dental sealants take 15–30 minutes per child. When finished, each child brings in the next child, so there is very little disruption of class time.
- 4) Placing dental sealants is a quick process. The tooth is cleaned, sealant material flows into the pits and grooves, and the coating is hardened using a special curing light.
 - It does not hurt.
 - No anesthetic is needed.
 - Children can eat right away after receiving sealants.