

**Our Mission Statement:**

*“Our aim is to deliver  
the highest standard  
of care in a  
comfortable and  
friendly  
environment.”*



Leaflet revised 19/09/13

# CASTLE DENTAL CARE

**We'll take care of you**

First Floor,  
Tangmere Square,  
Castle Vale,  
Birmingham  
B35 6DL  
Tel: 08443878877  
[www.castledentalcare.org.uk](http://www.castledentalcare.org.uk)

### Opening Hours

Monday 9am - 5.30 pm  
Tuesday 9am - 5.30pm  
Wednesday 8.30am - 5.00pm  
Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm  
Friday 8.30am - 4.30 pm

Wheelchair access available



# Amalgam Fillings





Dental amalgam has been used as a safe, durable, stable and cost effective restorative material for more than 150 years.

Amalgam is used to fill holes (cavities) that have formed, usually as a result of decay or tooth wear. The decayed and weakened parts of the tooth are removed using small drills and the cavity is cleaned. If the cavity has spread to the side wall of your tooth, a band will be placed around the tooth with a small wedge holding it in place during the placement of the filling. This ensures that the filling hardens into the correct shape. The band is then removed. To protect the tiny nerves and blood vessels inside the tooth, very thin layers of linings, such as resin, are sometimes painted inside the cavity before the filling material is packed in. The filling will begin to harden during the first few minutes and you should avoid chewing on it for a least 4 hours.

Amalgam fillings are made of a combination of metals including silver, tin, copper and mercury. Amalgam is extremely durable and able to withstand the grinding and chewing of your back teeth over long periods of time.

- **Advantages:**

- Because of the metal content, amalgam fillings are strong and can withstand heavy biting pressure, and are therefore, used primarily for the back teeth.

- Widely considered to be the least technique sensitive type of filling material.
- A long history of successful use in the treatment of dental decay.
- Metal ion release can limit the spread of new decay under amalgam fillings.

- **Disadvantages:**

- Amalgam filling material contains mercury and other metals. While there have been no conclusive studies relating the mercury in amalgam to any dangers, mercury by itself is very toxic.

- Some people experience a period of hot and cold sensitivity after having an amalgam filling.
- Amalgam fillings do not harden immediately. Therefore, it is not good to chew on that specific tooth for a couple of hours after the filling is placed.
- More tooth structure is lost because the dentist has to make a bigger preparation.
- Does not stick (bond) to remaining tooth tissues – enamel and dentine;
- Amalgam can darken over time as it corrodes. This does not affect the function of the filling, but many people it is less attractive than tooth-coloured materials;
- Placement of amalgam requires removal of some healthy tooth
- In rare cases, a localized, reaction may occur