

I WISH TO HAVE MY SILVER FILLINGS REMOVED

When considering the removal of silver (amalgam) fillings for esthetic or health reasons, there are advantages and disadvantages to consider.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why might I request to have my Silver Fillings removed?

- Esthetics – The removal of a silver restoration to be replaced with a material that matches the color of the natural tooth.
- Health – To decrease potential exposure to the mercury vapor released from silver (amalgam) fillings. The safety and health risks of this vapor is widely debated. However, despite their wide use, overall use of silver fillings is declining worldwide



Tooth Coloured Filling

2. What is involved in having my Silver Fillings removed?

- The procedure may be simple or more complex depending on the choice of dental material selected to replace the silver filling.
- The removal of silver fillings can be done using a controlled office protocol to reduce exposure to mercury vapor and remove environmental risk.



Cracked Filling

3. What are the risks associated with having my Silver Fillings removed?

- You may experience temperature and bite sensitivity associated with the new restoration which can last for a few days or up to three months.
- Less commonly, a tooth may have irreversible irritation involving the need for root canal therapy and a subsequent crown.
- Pregnant women should avoid having silver (amalgam) fillings removed to avoid any negative effects on the fetus.



Worn Filling

4. When might my dentist recommend my Silver Fillings be removed?

- When the silver filling no longer provides an adequate seal for the tooth, resulting in leakage and decay.
- When the silver filling needs to be removed and the tooth evaluated prior to crown placement.
- When the silver filling is cracked or worn.

5. What happens if I choose not to have my Silver Fillings removed?

- Esthetic concerns will not be addressed. However, the health of the tooth may not be compromised and may last many years if the silver filling is sealing the tooth and functioning properly.
- If removal of the silver filling has been recommended for decay, leakage or possible fracture, then these teeth will have continued or increasing risks, and repair options will become more complex over time.
- There will be ongoing potential for exposure to mercury vapor.



Foundation Filling Prior to Crown Placement