



# Alternatives to Treating Cavities

For your dental health.

## What are your choices for treating a tooth damaged by cavities?

When you have a cavity, you really only have two choices.

You could choose to:

- Postpone treatment
- Get a filling

### Postponing treatment

The problem with postponing treatment is that a cavity will never go away on its own. It just gets bigger and bigger. It grows slowly while it's still in the hard outer enamel. But if a cavity is allowed to reach the softer inner dentin, it grows much more quickly and can easily infect the pulp chamber, which contains the tooth's nerves and blood vessels. Once the infection gets into the pulp chamber, you'll need root canal treatment to save the tooth.



*A cavity*



*Cavity infecting the pulp chamber*

### Choosing a filling

A filling stops a cavity in its tracks. To place a filling, we remove the decayed portion of the tooth and seal the tooth with filling material. This restores your tooth's function, and keeps your mouth healthy.



*Fillings remove the decay*