

# Amalgam (SILVER) Restoration



Amalgam fillings are made up of different metals such as copper, silver and tin. A small amount of mercury is used to bind all of these metals together making the filling material soft and easy to place into the tooth. Amalgam hardens quickly so that it can withstand the forces of biting and chewing. In today's world of dentistry, less amounts of mercury are being used because more of the other elements are added. When the amalgam is mixed, the small amount of mercury has formed a compound with the other metals. By the time the amalgam is placed in the tooth, the mercury is bound and no longer toxic.



## Post-Operative Instructions

- The filling will not reach maximum hardness for 24 hours; therefore, a soft food diet for the day is encouraged. Milkshakes, smoothies, yogurt, applesauce and mac and cheese are great choices.
- To properly place the filling, work may be done just below the gumline; therefore, expect your child's gums to be sore for 2-3 days. Your child's gum tissue may bleed upon brushing for the next few days. To help with healing, keep the area clean by gently brushing 2-3 times a day and floss.