

DENTAL MATERIALS

There are four types of filling materials used by the Community Oral Health Service:

- **Glass Ionomer Cement (GIC)**

A short-term (tooth or pink coloured) material used mainly in deciduous teeth but occasionally used as a temporary filling in permanent teeth. GIC fillings contain:

- *powder*: glass - silicon oxide, aluminium oxide and calcium fluoride
- *liquid*: polyacrylic acid or deionised water

- **Composite**

A permanent (tooth coloured) filling material used in back permanent teeth and on permanent front teeth. Composite fillings contain:

- uncured methacrylate ester monomers
- inert mineral fillers
- activators and stabilisers.

- **Amalgam**

A silver metal material used in both deciduous and permanent teeth. It's advantages include high strength and durability. Amalgam fillings contain:

- mercury, silver, copper, tin and zinc.

- **Intermediary Restorative Material (IRM)**

A temporary filling material (white in colour) used for short term fillings. IRM fillings contain:

- zinc oxide
- eugenol (contained in oil of cloves).

The filling materials selected are dependent on a number of factors which the dental therapist will take into account, including cavity size, strength and durability of the material and age of the child.

For more information, please contact your dental therapist or phone 0800 TALK TEETH (0800 825 583)

'Brush twice a day with adult strength fluoride toothpaste'



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