

How Dental Sealants Work

Purpose: Demonstrate how dental sealants protect chewing surfaces of teeth.

Duration: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: Antacid tablets, vinegar, paper cups, plastic wrap.

Instructions:

- Wrap one antacid tablet in plastic wrap; leave the other tablet unwrapped.
- Place each tablet in a separate paper cup.
- Cover both tablets with vinegar.
- Wait five minutes and pour off the vinegar. The acid in the vinegar has begun to dissolve the unwrapped antacid tablet (tooth without dental sealant).
- Unwrap the plastic from the other antacid tablet. The plastic wrap protected it from the acid, just like a dental sealant.