

DENTAL MATERIALS FACT SHEET

	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	PRINCIPAL USES	COST	DURABILITY	APPEARANCE	PATIENT TOLERANCE
PORCELAIN and similar materials	Porcelain, ceramics and glass - like materials.	CROWNS (caps) AND VENEERS	HIGH Requires at least 2 visits and laboratory services.	VARIES May fracture under heavy biting loads.	EXCELLENT Looks like the tooth.	Well tolerated.
METALS	Alloys of gold or other metals.	CROWNS AND BRIDGES Also used for partial dentures.	HIGH Requires at least 2 visits and laboratory services.	EXCELLENT Very strong and durable.	POOR Looks like the metal used.	Gold alloys are well tolerated. Very low sensitivity. Other metals sometime cause allergies.
PORCELAIN FUSED TO METAL	Porcelain fused to an underlying metal to add strength.	CROWNS (caps) and BRIDGES	HIGH Requires at least 2 visits and laboratory services.	EXCELLENT Very strong and durable.	VERY GOOD Does not quite have the translucency of natural teeth.	Gold alloys are well tolerated. Very low sensitivity. Other metals sometime cause allergies.
AMALGAM (Silver Filling)	Mixture of mercury and silver alloy powder forming a solid filling.	FILLINGS Especially where not easily seen and the bite is heavy.	LOW	GOOD TO EXCELLENT	POOR Has a silver or blackened silver color..	Well tolerated. Very low sensitivity.
COMPOSITE	Mixture of glass filler and acrylic.	FILLINGS Which are easily seen.	MODERATE TO HIGH	FAIR If filling is small or average size.	GOOD TO EXCELLENT Looks like the tooth but tends to stain.	Well tolerated. Very Low sensitivity.

* Please see the US Food and Drug Administrations (FDA) February 2002 “Consumer Update on Dental Amalgam”, available on the FDA web site <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/consumer/amalgams.html>.

* Also, the “Review and Analysis of the Literature on the Potential Adverse Health Effects of Dental Amalgam”, published by the Life Sciences Research Office, Inc. (LSRO). This report was requested by the major U.S. health institutions. It involved the assessment of 950 scientific and medical studies relating to dental amalgam published between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 2003. To receive a copy, call Donna Krupa at (703)527-7357 or djkrupa1@aol.com.