

DENTAL RESTORATIVE MATERIALS FACT SHEET
Risks/Benefits

	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	PRINCIPAL USES	APPEARANCE	RISKS/BENEFITS
PORCELAIN	Porcelain, ceramics and glass-like material. May require two or more visits, cemented or bonded into place.	Crowns (caps) Veneers, Onlays, Inlays	Tooth colored	Brittle, may fracture Well tolerated. Rare sensitivity. No studies to date show harm.
METALS	Alloys of gold or other metals.	Crowns (caps), Bridges, Partial Dentures, Onlays, Inlays	Looks like the metal used	Well tolerated. Rare sensitivity. No studies to date show harm.
PORCELAIN FUSED TO METAL	Porcelain fused to an underlying metal to add strength.	Crowns (caps) and Bridges	Similar to tooth color	Well tolerated. Rare sensitivity. No studies to date show harm.
AMALGAM	Mixture of mercury and silver, copper and zinc powder forming a solid alloy filling. Hardens by a chemical reaction.	Fillings	Color varies as silver darkens with age.	Well tolerated. Rare sensitivity. Exposure to small amount of mercury vapor. Allergies rare. No studies to date show harm.
COMPOSITE	Mixture of glass filler and acrylic. Hardens by a chemical reaction.	Fillings, Sealants and Veneers	Similar to tooth color	Well tolerated. Rare sensitivity. Exposure to small amounts of estrogen-like materials. Allergies rare. No studies to date show harm.
GLASS IONOMERS	Powder/liquid mixture, can contain fluoride, which can self-harden or harden by exposure to light.	Fillings, cavity liners, sealants, and cement for crowns and bridges	Opaque to white yellow	Well tolerated. Rare sensitivity. Low resistance to wear and fracture. No studies to date show harm.