

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)

Information for Schools

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is a liquid medicine applied to teeth to prevent progression of dental decay. Therapists may use SDF when a child can't tolerate other treatment, especially young children.

It contains silver, which acts as an antimicrobial agent to kill bacteria, and fluoride, which helps prevent further demineralisation (softening) of the tooth structure.

When SDF is applied to the teeth, it forms silver oxide, which causes permanent black staining on areas of decay. This can be covered with a filling later.

Teeth with a cavity



Cavities treated with SDF



Benefits of SDF

- **Non-invasive:** No injections or drills
- **Quick and easy:** Completed in a few minutes
- **Comfortable:** Most feel no discomfort
- **Effective:** Proven to stop or slow decay

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