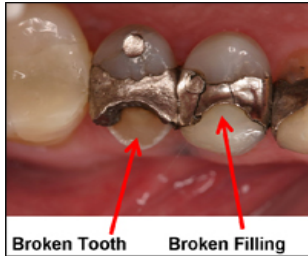


Thinking about replacing your amalgam fillings?

Aside from the mercury concerns, amalgam “silver” fillings have structural concerns as well. Because amalgam fillings are a metal alloy, they expand and contract at a greater rate than tooth structure does. Therefore, amalgams can cause teeth to crack and fracture.



Amalgam fillings cause a lot of strain on the tooth, and eventually, parts of the tooth can break away.

Amalgam fillings aren't chemically bonded to the tooth structure; therefore, bacteria can slip into the margin (interface between the tooth and the filling) and cause a cavity underneath.



Traditionally, silver amalgam was the only material available to dentists when restoring cavities. Now there are more cosmetic, biocompatible, longer-lasting options to choose from.



Composite “white” restorations are suitable for replacing smaller amalgams.

However, for larger amalgams, all-porcelain crowns are more appropriate. All-porcelain crowns are necessary when the structural integrity of the tooth is a concern, or when parts of the tooth have broken away. Crowns cover the whole tooth, and protect it from further cracks and fractures. Sometimes a *build-up* is also necessary if a large portion of the tooth has been lost. A *build-up* is a filling, underneath the crown, to fill-in any holes so the crown can cover the tooth more securely.

