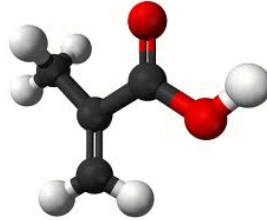


Composite Resin Dental Fillings

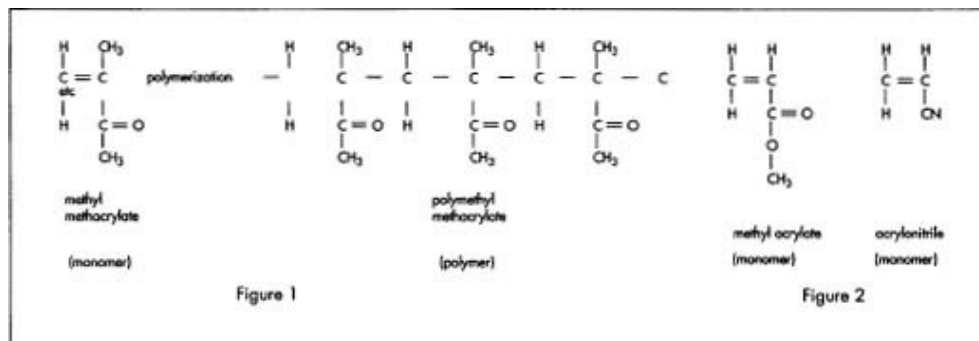
This type of filling can be colour matched to the exact colour of your tooth and is therefore unnoticeable. The filling is made from a mixture of glass particles and a polymer resin. The glass particles will help to make the filling strong and slow to wear down.

The polymer resin is based on a monomer known as methacrylic acid:



Methacrylic Acid Monomer (from ref #2)

The cavity is first cleaned and etched with acid to help bind to the surface of the tooth. The polymer resin is then worked into the cavity. Once the dentist is happy with positioning of the resin, ultraviolet light is shone on the resin to cause the monomer to polymerize into the polymer.



Polymerization Reaction (from ref #3)

The use of light gives the dentist control over when the polymer forms and hardens. Shaping of the filling to "fit" your teeth is the final step.

1. <http://www.rsc.org/Education/Teachers/Resources/Inspirational/resources/3.1.2.pdf>
2. <http://s3v.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fil:Methacrylic-acid-3D-balls.png>
3. <http://www.enotes.com/acrylic-plastic-reference/acrylic-plastic>