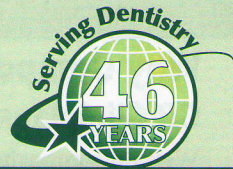




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Why Composite Restorations Fail... and How to Manage Them

Gordon's Clinical Observations: You carefully place many composites every day. The restorations often initially look like the teeth have never had a restoration placed in them. However, a few years later, all too often the margins have cracked open and/or are decayed especially on the apical portion of the proximal box forms, the marginal ridge has chipped off, or a crack has appeared in the restoration. What has made the restorations degenerate to this level in just a few years? More importantly, can you prevent these challenges? There are many potential reasons. *This article includes a survey of the most important observed composite failures, what dentists feel cause failures, and how to potentially prevent them.*

CR survey respondents attributed wear (10%), fracture (12%), and caries (70%) as the primary causes of failed composite fillings.

In the following article, CR scientists and clinicians investigate composite failure modes, explain whether wear, fracture, and caries are the actual causes of failure or just merely the effects, and offer suggestions for composite restorative success.



Failing margins (staining, gaps, cracks, etc.)

Continued on Page 2