

PEDIATRIC SERIES

What is AirAbrasion?

Until recently, the traditional dental handpiece was the only tool we had to remove decay from your child's teeth. But now we have a new option that allows us to remove decay on teeth without even touching them. This new technology is called air abrasion.

Air abrasion is a process in which a special handpiece removes decay by blowing a stream of clean dry air mixed with tiny abrasive particles onto the surface of the teeth. The particles gently remove any stains or decay so that we can apply a sealant, or they can be used to expose hidden cavities, which we can then remove and restore with a filling material.



General treatment for kids



An abrasion handpiece



Air abrasion

Air abrasion and young patients

We typically use air abrasion to remove small amounts of tooth decay. It's often a great option because:

The particles can be precisely directed so we can remove stains and decay without removing much tooth structure.

It's a more comfortable option than the traditional handpiece because it produces no vibration and no heat; because of this, it requires no anesthetic (which means no injection).

The process is quiet, so it minimizes fear and anxiety.

Useful on back teeth

Air abrasion is also particularly helpful for investigating decay in children's back teeth. Before we can diagnose a cavity, we often need to evaluate the extent of the decay using air abrasion. The procedure can gently expose hidden cavities, which we then can remove and fill.

Let us know if your child has asthma, so we can determine if air abrasion is right for your child. The fine particles can cause wheezing and coughing in some patients, but for most, air abrasion is a wonderful new technology that allows us to provide comfortable treatment for early forms of tooth decay.