

How to close an open contact

What do you do if after the procedure you end up with a poor contact?

Ask yourself: is the poor contact big enough to inject flowable?

If no: Use a high speed hand-piece to do a saucer prep on the proximal surface to open the gap.

If yes: There are two methods that we recommend (see below).

Method 1: Place OVC Wedge, dry, apply bonding agent, dry, then inject flowable resin as deep as possible and manipulate with a fine instrument to ensure bubbles are released. Add more flowable or regular composite incrementally and then fully cure from all directions. **Note: Do not use self etching bonding agents.** Bonding agent will go onto the neighbouring proximal contact. Non self-etching bonding agents do not bond well to unetched enamel and can be prised apart with a flat plastic. This will enable flossing.

Method 2: Alternatively, you can recover using a sectional matrix system such as the Dentsply Sirona Palodent Plus or Triodent V3 System. If need be, you can open the contact a little further so that you have better access. The composite will bond very well with the OVC.



A. Completed OVC with open contact.



B. Slide matrix band into the embrasure, wedge, and place the ring.



C. Apply bond and air dry, but do not cure.



D. Apply flowable, using an instrument to remove any air bubbles.



E. Apply more flowable, then fully light cure from different directions.



F. Remove separator ring and light cure.



G. Finished OVC with good contacts.

Method 1

Advantages

Quick, guaranteed tight contact.

Disadvantages

Neighbouring tooth's proximal contact will get coated with bonding agent.

Method 2

Better contours, bonding agent doesn't contact neighbouring tooth.

More steps, need right equipment, harder to cure to full depth.