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RUBBER DAM:

Also called dental dam. It is a rectangular sheet of latex rubber that is held over teeth by rubber dam clamps the rubber dam fits along the edge of the gum with the teeth standing out from the rubber dam through individual holes that were custom made by a hole punch. The dental dam is used during root canal therapy and placement of composite fillings. It permits a clean and dry operative field, retracts the lips and cheeks and enables treatment of teeth without contamination from blood and saliva. It also protects the airway from any materials and small instruments that can be aspirated. Modern dental materials like composites are placed by adhesive procedures and require a moisture and contamination free environment to obtain maximum bond strength of the restorative to the tooth substance. Fillings placed under rubber dam isolation last much longer than non rubber dam placed fillings.