

# Plaque Causes Tooth Decay And Gum Disease

## How does plaque cause tooth decay?

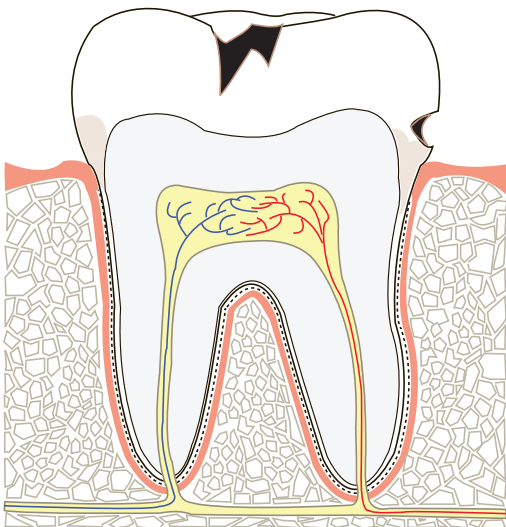
When Plaque germs feed on sugar or carbohydrates, acid forms within seconds. This acid is held on the surface of the teeth by Plaque.

The acid dissolves the enamel and over a period of time, causes tooth decay. Early stages of tooth decay may cause no pain.

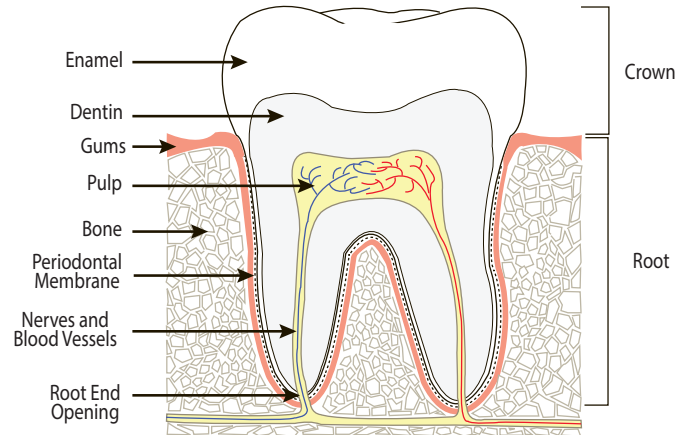
When the decay reaches the nerves, or the pulp, the pain can be severe.

**PLAQUE GERMS FEEDING ON SUGAR AND CARBOHYDRATES PRODUCE ACID**

**ACID + TOOTH = DECAY**



## Healthy Tooth



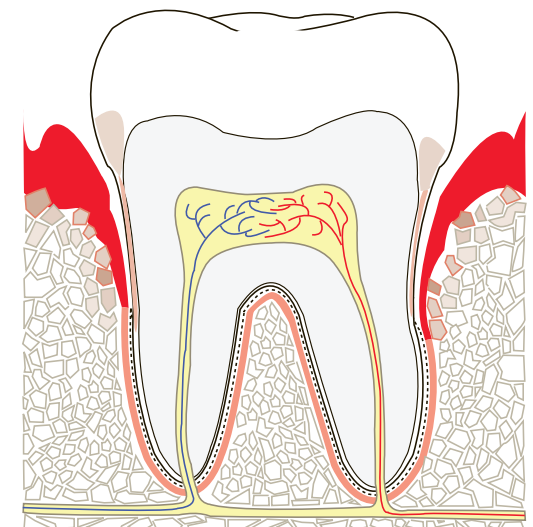
## How does plaque cause gum disease?

Plaque may irritate gums and cause them to become red and swollen and to bleed easily. No pain occurs at this stage.

If this continues, the gums may become infected. This infection can destroy the periodontal membrane and the bone which hold the tooth in place. The tooth can become loose and may fall out.

**PLAQUE IRRITATES THE GUMS, AND MAY CAUSE INFECTION AND TOOTH LOSS**

**PLAQUE + GUMS = GUM DISEASE**



**Control Plaque With  
Daily Brushing And Flossing,  
And Regular Visits To Your Dentist**



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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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