# **Best Toothpaste for Sensitive Teeth -According** to Thousands of Reviews

Tooth sensitivity can turn our sweet moments into painful memories. It can turn a romantic coffee date into a nightmare. The long pleasant strolls on sidewalks while eating ice cream can become an epitome of awkwardness and unpleasantness. All of this is because of the hot and cold sensations in your teeth.

The medical term for this sharp pain or discomfort when having cold or hot food is <u>dentin</u> <u>hypersensitivity</u>. Have you ever wondered if it is just normal, or are you having some problems with your teeth? If it is normal, what are the causes of tooth sensitivity, and how can you get rid of this discomfort.

## Is it normal to have sensitive teeth?

Let me make the structure of the tooth clear to you. That will help you understand the answer to this question easily. A tooth has three layers.

- The outermost and hardest covering that protects the whole tooth is called **Enamel**.
- The inner, softer part of the tooth underlying the enamel is called **Dentin**. This part has tubules that transmit the hot and cold sensations to the core of the tooth.
- The innermost structure of the tooth consists of the soft tissue called the **Pulp**. This part has nerve endings that can feel pain.

How much sensitivity you feel varies. It depends on the thickness of enamel you have on your tooth and how many nerve endings are exposed to the exterior. Some people have thin enamel surfaces, so they feel sensitivity more often than others.

An occasional twinge is normal. If you feel sensitivity very often, you must get yourself checked by your dentist to see if there is any need for dental treatment.

# **Causes of Tooth Sensitivity**

There are various causes of dental hypersensitivity. If the discomfort is in multiple teeth, look for some generalized problem, like gum disease. But if you only feel sensitivity in a single tooth, then there may be localized concern associated with that specific tooth, such as caries (cavities), enamel cracks, etc.

If, due to some reason, the enamel of your teeth is wearing down or getting damaged, then it will result in tender teeth. These include:

- Using a toothbrush with hard bristles
- Aggressive brushing habits
- Acidic food
- Night grinding
- Enamel cracks due to opening hard things like bottle caps with your teeth
- Caries
- Recent dental treatment, e.g., filling or crowns, may also be the cause of dentin hypersensitivity.

# How do you stop sensitive teeth pain?

There are multiple treatment options, depending upon the severity.

- For mild symptoms, use desensitizing chemical agents at home in the form of toothpaste.
- If this fails, then more extensive treatment options are given. These include fillings, use of sealants, inlays, onlays, veneers or crowns, etc.

# Best toothpaste for sensitive teeth in the UK

## **Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief**

Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief is probably the best toothpaste for sensitive teeth and gingivitis. There is instant relief from sensitivity within 1 minute if applied and massaged directly to the sensitive teeth.

**Mechanism of action:** It blocks the exposed tubes present in the dentin. Thus there will be no open tubules to the external environment, and hence there will be relief from sensitivity.

**Active Ingredient:** The active ingredient used for this purpose in Colgate Sensitive Pro-Relief is <u>arginine</u> which blocks the dentinal tubule and improves hypersensitivity. Other components include zinc salts that inhibit plaque accumulation and sodium monofluorophosphate that is beneficial for making teeth resistant to caries.

#### Sensodyne Repair & Protect

The most recommended toothpaste these days for sensitivity is Sensodyne Repair & Protect. It provides relief from sensitivity within 60 seconds if it is used directly on the affected areas.

**Active Ingredient:** The active ingredient present in this toothpaste is **stannous fluoride** which blocks the open dentinal tubules by forming a protective layer. It makes it the best toothpaste for sensitive teeth and receding gums.

**Mechanism of action:** It provides long-term relief as it also helps repair the enamel, which is the unique feature of this toothpaste. The use of this toothpaste is recommended twice daily.

#### BioMin F

If you don't feel any improvement in your symptoms using Sensodyne toothpaste, you must consider this an alternative. It works by the same mechanism of blocking dentinal tubules.

The unique characteristic is the slow release of fluoride for 12 hours, which is a maximum of 2 hrs for all other toothpaste. It has a minimum but effective concentration of fluoride.

Active Ingredient: It uses potassium nitrate as an active ingredient.

**Mechanism of action:** It works by making the nerve endings hyperpolarized. Thus, it desensitizes the nerve endings and improves dentin hypersensitivity.

## Other treatment options

If you have moderate to severe symptoms and don't feel any improvement using desensitizing toothpaste, then you must visit a dental clinic. Get yourself checked timely, where your dentist will diagnose the underlying cause and provide the best possible options available according to your condition.

Surface application of various <u>agents in the dental clinic</u> also improves hypersensitivity, including fluoride gel, varnish, sealants, resins, HEMA/glutaraldehyde, iontophoresis, gingival grafts, veneers, inlays, onlays, and crowns, etc.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### Does salt water help sensitive teeth?

Gargling with lukewarm salt water can be quite comforting for people suffering from sensitive teeth. Frequent rinses clean the gums. It has an <u>anti-inflammatory effect</u> that tones down gum disease.

## How do you get rid of sensitive teeth fast?

The easiest way to get rid of dentin hypersensitivity is the use of toothpaste specially made for sensitive teeth. Directly apply it to the sensitive areas for 2 minutes and then rinse. It's the cheapest and the most commonly used way.

#### Can enamel regrow?

Enamel is not living tissue; it cannot regrow. Toothpaste and other oral hygienic measures can only make existing enamel stronger by helping in its remineralization. But these methods do not regrow already destroyed enamel.

#### When should I be worried about sensitive teeth?

You should consult your dentist when:

- The hot and cold sensation lingers on for more than a few seconds after eating the food.
- The unpleasant feeling turns to pain.
- Your gums are bleeding.
- You have a cavity in the tooth.

## **Conclusion:**

The sharp and sudden pain in teeth that respond to a hot, cold, or sweet stimulus is dentin hypersensitivity. It ranges from mild to severe depending on the underlying cause. There are various treatment modalities to treat it. The most simple and easiest is the use of home-based desensitizing agents in the form of the best toothpaste for sensitive teeth or mouthwashes. If you don't feel any improvement, then visit your dentist.