

What are Dentures?

Dentures are a removable appliance used to replace missing teeth. They are fabricated using either a cobalt chrome or acrylic base to which false teeth are added. Dentures help with speech, chewing and help give support to your lips and chin as well as improving the appearance of your smile. There are two types of dentures

- Partial denture which replace one or several teeth
- Full denture which replaces the whole set of teeth on the upper or lower arch

**At Clarity Dental Care we only fabricate partial dentures, any patients who require upper or lower full dentures will be referred to a Dental Prosthetist located in Mornington.*

How does a denture stay in place?

Dentures are kept in place by either using metal or plastic tooth colored clasps which anchor around neighboring teeth or by the dentures' natural suction. On occasions a denture fixative or glue is recommended to aid in keeping the denture in place.

****Although tooth colored clasps are more appealing, please note that they are not as strong as metal clasps and have a higher risk of breaking. A fee is charged to repair any broken clasps****

Stages of getting a denture

Your dentist will assess your needs and thoroughly examine your mouth for suitability for dentures, they look at

- All your existing teeth, checking for mobile teeth as these may have to be removed prior to having new dentures
- Looking at all existing restorations, fillings, crowns etc.
- The health of your gums to make sure there is no infection present.
- The way your teeth bite together.
- If you have no natural teeth, assessment of your gums and underlying bone.

It is highly recommended that any teeth with decay or any teeth that require extraction, gets done prior to the denture appointments

Generally, from 3 up to 5 separate appointments will be necessary as dentures are made in stages. The only exception being an 'immediate denture', when a tooth is extracted and the denture is fitted immediately to replace the missing tooth. These dentures are also referred to as partial temporary dentures and will need to be replaced in 3 to 6 months after the extraction with a metal permanent denture. This is an additional cost.

Aftercare for yourself and your dentures

It will take a while getting used to new dentures, time and patience is needed. Upper dentures may affect your speech for a few days to a few weeks whilst your tongue gets used to having the denture in place, please persevere as this will soon pass. There may also be some general soreness in the first 24 hours from your denture, if the soreness persists please contact us as the denture may need slight adjustments, this can be done at the practice.

Keeping your dentures clean at all times is important. Rinse them after meals if possible and brush them twice a day using warm soapy water. Dentures are only to be worn whilst you are awake; they need to be removed at night as this gives your gums a chance to 'have a rest' and also keeps your gums in optimal condition.

Regular dental examinations are important even if you have no natural teeth remaining, we check for any changes in your gums or underlying bone, your tongue, throat, cheeks and lips are also checked for any signs or oral cancers.

There are several other options available to replace missing teeth including such as implant placement. These options can be discussed with your dental practitioner

Denture Consent

1. **Stability.** The stability and retention of your denture depends on many factors, including but not limited to the attachment and fit of the denture to natural teeth, implants and crowns if any, remaining bone and quality of bone, gum tissue and saliva quantity and your ability in placing and removing the denture.
2. **Appearance.** Every attempt is made to create a natural appearance for the denture; however, it may not be possible for the denture to support the lip and facial contours perfectly.
3. **Denture Soreness.** There may be gum soreness and discomfort under the denture. This can be relieved with adjustments of the denture. It may take several appointments before the denture fits comfortably.

****The first 3 denture adjustments are a no charge and are included in the overall cost of the denture. Any further adjustments may incur an additional fee.***

4. **Denture Fit.** The new denture may feel awkward for a few weeks until you become accustomed to them. It may also feel loose while the cheek muscles and tongue learn to keep them in place. If after a few months you are still not used to your denture, despite the adjustments, **please note that the cost of the denture is non-refundable.**
5. **Numb Lip.** May occur from the pressure of the removable denture. This problem requires selective adjustment and in rare cases, a nerve might need surgical repositioning by a Maxillofacial Surgeon.
6. **Dry Mouth.** The quantity of saliva may be adversely affected by some systemic problems, medications and radiation therapy of the face and neck. Lack of saliva may increase irritation of a removable denture against the gum tissue and can also severely increase the incident of tooth decay
7. **Food Impaction.** Removable dentures always have some space between the fitting surface and the natural gum tissue. In addition, there is always movement of the removable denture during mastication (chewing). These factors create a situation where food accumulates between the denture and the gum tissue. Therefore, is it essential to remove the denture for cleaning on a regular basis.

8. **Chipping and Wear.** Acrylic resin denture teeth have more resistance to chipping, but they can have a tendency to wear down faster as they aren't as strong as natural teeth. If wear adversely affects the appearance or occlusion, the acrylic resin teeth can be replaced. Chips and cracks of the pink acrylic resin portion can usually be repaired without remaking the denture. Any repairs to denture may incur an additional fee.
9. **Speech and Taste.** Dentures cover areas of the jaw and palate that are normally not covered, due to this the tongue and lips require adaptation for proper speech, this can take a period of time to get used to. A denture "click" can sometimes be heard when the upper and lower denture teeth contact. The acrylic resin and metal of removable dentures may affect the taste of food, especially if the dentures are not properly cleaned.
10. **Relines.** Are required periodically as gum and bone may change over time. A reline procedure readapts the pink acrylic resin portion of the denture to the new shape and size of the gum tissue. We refer to a Dental Prosthetist in Mornington for all reline work.

In signing this form, I acknowledge that I have been given the full opportunity to ask any and all questions I might have about the treatment I am to receive at Clarity Dental Care. I agree that I have read and understand all the information supplied to me in regards to the treatment

Patient/Guardian _____ Date _____