

Dentures

Q1. What is a full denture?

A1. A full denture is a set of false teeth that replaces a full arch of missing teeth and is removable.

Q2. What is a partial denture?

A2. A partial denture is a plate with the missing teeth on it to fill the gaps of the teeth you have lost. The plate is made to fit around your own natural teeth that you still have. The partial denture may have clips or clasps to hold onto your own teeth to make the denture stay in better but clasps are not always necessary. Dentures and clasps can be made from a variety of materials. A partial denture is also removable and needs to be taken out and cleaned.

Q3. How long does it take to make?

A3. You will need between 2-4 appointments depending on how many teeth are being replaced. The dental laboratory will need about 1-2 weeks between the appointments to complete the necessary stages towards a final and completed denture.

Q4. What happens at each appointment?

A4. Initially your dentist will take impressions of your mouth and these are then sent to a laboratory so that wax blocks can be made. At your second appointment your dentist will take the bite registration. This involves using the wax blocks to check that the teeth will meet evenly when you bite. Once your dentist has made the appropriate adjustments to the wax blocks they will be sent back to the laboratory so that they can begin to make the denture. At the third appointment you will have the chance to try the denture and check if you are happy with the feel and appearance. Assuming no adjustments are needed, the denture is then sent back to the laboratory to be finished. The last appointment is to have the denture fitted.

A small partial denture with just a few teeth on does not always need all 4 appointments.

Q5. How often should I wear it?

A5. You can wear your denture all day however we recommend that you take it out at night to give your gums a rest. It is important to leave it in water to prevent any warping or cracking.

Q6. How do I look after it?

A6. It is generally best to brush your denture over a towel or bowl of water in case you drop it. You can use normal toothpaste (non-abrasive) or soap to clean them. It is important to

clean the surfaces that come into contact with your teeth and gums particularly if you use a fixative. Finally, when you are not wearing your denture you should store it in water.

Q7. Is it comfortable to wear?

A7. It may feel unusual to begin with but you should try to wear it as much as possible so that you get used to it. If it feels too uncomfortable then you should contact your dentist and they will adjust it for you until it feels comfortable to wear and use while eating and talking.

Q8. What is the alternative?

A. You may be able to have a bridge, depending on how many teeth are missing, or you could have implants.