

What Are Dentures?

Removable partial or full dentures can replace a single missing tooth, several teeth, or all of the teeth in your upper and/or lower jaw.

Dentures rely on support by the other teeth in that jaw (for partial dentures) and from mechanical support by the remaining ridge of gum and underlying bone. Maxillary (upper jaw) full dentures also may be helped by suction between the denture and the underlying gum of your palate (roof of mouth).

The advantage of this is that it is not invasive, no teeth need to be cut down, prepared, or shaped and the denture can be placed and removed whenever the patient wishes. It is a non-invasive removable appliance.

The disadvantage is that it must be removed at night-time to allow the gums to breathe and prevent fungal infection. It also tends to cover the palate or the gums and tissues in order to gain support.

Dentures may be provided under the NHS, and would be available under the NHS 'Band 3' charge.

If you have a few or all of your teeth missing, one solution is to have a denture. A denture is made from hard-wearing material that mimics the look of teeth and gums to give you mouth a natural appearance. Your denture will be made to fit snugly on your gums and you will be able to remove it for cleaning. When you are ready to replace missing teeth, you have a number of potential solutions available.

VALPLAST FLEXI DENTURES: (£720)

Valplast flexible partial dentures could be the solution for you, to replace one or more teeth. They are made from a flexible plastic material, which fits neatly into your mouth, is virtually invisible and no adhesive is required. Flexible dentures offer a solution to the pain and discomfort caused by the rubbing of hard acrylic against the soft tissue of your gums.

Their inner coating of flexi dentures is made of a flexible resin that is non-porous so that bacteria cannot thrive on them. This resin is longer lasting than normal dentures. Instead of being held in place with small metal clips they attach to your mouth by hooking into the undercut of the gum ridge.



COBALT CHROME DENTURES: (£650)

Cobalt Chrome dentures (partial dentures) have a metal base plate or framework that sits on and around the natural teeth onto which denture teeth are attached by acrylic. They are far superior to plastic partial dentures because they are thinner and the gums stay healthier because the biting force is shared between the gums and the remaining teeth. In certain designs we are able to offer an open palate, allowing taste and hot and cold detection to be improved.



Maintenance Of Partial Dentures

A partial denture can often need more attention than a full denture to maintain the health of your remaining teeth. When you wear a denture for the first time it may get some getting used to when speaking or eating and chewing. It is important that you take extra care in your hygiene regime so that you can avoid bad breath, tooth decay and gum disease. The hygienist will be able to show you how to best take care of your denture and gums and will tell you about specialised brushes you can use to do this.

Partial dentures can trap food, which will cause decay in your natural teeth, both the denture and your teeth should be brushed after every meal. A badly fitting partial denture can severely damage your gums that are supporting your natural teeth leading to bone loss, mobility and finally the loss of the tooth. If you notice soreness, swelling or bleeding of your gums you must seek help as soon as possible.

When inserting or removing your partial denture never try to force it, always place it in a position with your hands. You must never bite it into position, as you may damage your denture, teeth or gums.