

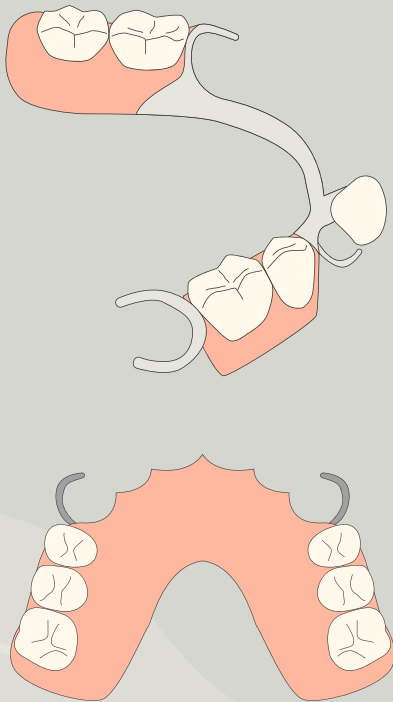
Dentures

Dentures are false teeth that are worn to replace missing teeth. Not only can dentures make your smile whole again and give your face a fuller and more youthful look, but they can also make speaking and eating easier. Dentures are usually made of acrylic resin or lightweight metal and are designed to look like your natural teeth. They are a low-cost option for patients experiencing tooth loss, but there are other treatments you can explore with your dentist if you find dentures uncomfortable. These options can include bridges or implants depending on your case. Please tell your dentist if you would like to discuss these alternatives.

While some dentures might only replace a single tooth, using other teeth nearby for retention, others may replace your entire arch of teeth, resting on the gums underneath. They can either be a permanent replacement for your teeth or act as a temporary fix while you wait for your permanent treatment.

Your dentist will work with you to plan and find the right denture solution for you. If you are having teeth removed, your dentist might give you the option to have your dentures made prior to the extraction and have them inserted on the same day. While this does have the advantage of not leaving you with a gap, as the gums heal, your dentures may need adjustment, relining or replacing in the months and years that follow.

To ensure the best possible fit there may be multiple visits required before you receive your finished prosthesis. Each fitting is roughly 2-4 weeks apart as your lab work is sent back and forth to a prosthetics lab in Perth. Ask your dentist what type of denture they are making for you as every process is slightly different and not every denture is suitable for everyone.



HOW IT WORKS - FULL AND PARTIAL DENTURES

The process for a personalised, full or partial dentures is usually broken up into 4 stages to ensure the best possible fit.

1. First impressions – After agreeing on your treatment plan, your provider will take a set of impressions that are sent to the lab to create a set of custom impression trays and wax bite blocks.
2. Second impressions & wax rims – Using the custom trays we take a 2nd, very accurate impression of your teeth and gums. We then use a wax bite block to record how your teeth bite together. We might also take some photos of your smile so the lab can match your new teeth to your face.
3. Try-ins – The lab has created a set of personalised dentures for you to try in! The only difference is the teeth are set in wax and not acrylic. This is your chance to let us know what you think. If you are happy with the look and feel, we can proceed to your final denture. If you want any changes, let us know – It's your last chance to do so.
4. Final denture - Your denture is ready! The denture may be ready for insert straight away, or you may have to have teeth extracted first. The denture may also require some minor alterations on the day.
5. Review – It is common for your denture to need a few minor adjustments as your gums settle in.

Think of your new denture as a new pair of leather shoes; you may take some time to get used to them when you talk and eat etc. But perseverance is key. If you find the denture is rubbing on one particular spot, you may have to revisit your dentist to make further adjustments. This is all included in the original cost of your denture for 3 months following the insert. Make sure you wear your denture for 24 hours before coming in so we can see where the gums are being irritated and know exactly where to adjust the denture.

If you need to have a number of teeth extracted before your denture is fitted, be aware that as the gums heal, they may retract or change shape, changing the fit of the denture. This may mean that in time you may need to replace your denture or have it relined for a more accurate fit to help with improving the retention of the denture.