

Dentures - Malvern East | Toorak - Victorian Dental Group

Canonical: <https://www.victoriandentalgroup.com.au/dentures/>

Details:

A denture replaces missing teeth with a removable appliance. It remains the lowest-cost way to replace several or all teeth, and modern dentures fit and look considerably better than those of a generation ago. They also come with realistic limits, and this page is honest about them.

Who provides denture treatment here

Dentures at Victorian Dental Group are prescribed and fitted by our general dentists . We are a general practice; none of our practitioners holds specialist registration. Dentures are made by dental laboratories we work with.

Why replace missing teeth

A gap left for years lets neighbouring teeth drift and tilt, lets the opposing tooth over-erupt into the space, shifts chewing load onto fewer teeth, and — with many teeth missing — changes the shape of the face as the jawbone shrinks. Replacing teeth earlier is easier than later.

There is also the part people mention more quietly: missing front teeth change how you speak, smile and eat in company. That is a legitimate reason to treat, and you do not need to justify it in clinical terms.

The types

Full (complete) denture — replaces all the teeth in one or both jaws. Held by suction and the shape of the gums. Upper full dentures usually sit well because the palate gives a large suction area; lower full dentures are notoriously harder to keep stable, because the tongue and a horseshoe-shaped ridge give far less to hold on to. That single fact is the main reason implant-retained dentures exist.

Partial denture — replaces some teeth, held by clasps on the remaining natural teeth.

Acrylic partial — lower cost, bulkier, and often the right choice as an interim while other treatment is planned

Metal (cobalt-chrome) partial — a thin cast metal frame with acrylic teeth. Stronger, thinner, less bulky, better fitting and more stable than acrylic. Higher cost

Flexible partial — a nylon-type material with no metal clasps, more comfortable for some and more discreet, but harder to adjust and reline

Overdenture — a denture that sits over retained tooth roots, which give it more support and stability than gum alone. The roots underneath need the same cleaning as natural teeth, and they need to stay decay-free, so this suits people who can maintain them.

Implant-retained denture — clips onto two or more implants for a substantially more stable fit, particularly in the lower jaw. See [implant dentures](#) .

Acrylic partial	Metal partial	Full denture	Implant-retained	---	---	---	---	---	Bulk	Most
Least of the removables	Moderate	Moderate	Stability	Moderate	Good	Upper good, lower				
variable	Best	Add teeth later	Easy	Harder	n/a	Harder	Surgery	No	No	No
							Yes	Cost		

Lowest | Middle | Middle | Highest |

How a denture is made

Usually four to five appointments over three to six weeks.

Assessment and impressions. Examination of the remaining teeth and tissues, and a first impression.

Second impression in a custom tray, for accuracy.

Bite registration. Recording how your jaws meet, and the height between them. This determines your facial shape and how you chew, and it is the step that most affects the final result.

Wax try-in. The teeth are set in wax so you can see and approve the shade, shape and arrangement before the denture is finished. Look at it in a mirror, in daylight, and take your time. Changes at this stage are easy; after processing they are not.

Fit. The finished denture is inserted and adjusted.

Then a review within a week or so, and further adjustments as needed. These are expected, not a sign anything is wrong.

What to expect, honestly

There is an adjustment period. A new denture feels large, affects speech for a week or two, and can produce more saliva at first. Reading aloud for a few minutes a day genuinely helps speech settle faster. Sore spots are common early and are adjusted at review appointments — do not put up with them, and do not file the denture yourself.

Chewing is not the same as natural teeth. A full denture gives roughly a fraction of natural biting force. Cut food smaller, chew on both sides at once to keep the denture seated, start with softer food and build up, and expect hard and sticky foods to be difficult. Steak, apples and crusty bread are the usual culprits.

Dentures do not stop bone loss. The jawbone shrinks over time where teeth are missing, which is why a denture that fitted well loosens over the years and needs relining or remaking. A reline every few years, and a new denture roughly every five to eight, is normal and is not a failure of the original.

Immediate dentures — fitted on the day teeth are removed — mean you are never without teeth, but the gums shrink substantially as they heal, so an immediate denture will need relining or replacing within months. That cost should be in the plan from the start, not a surprise later.

Adhesives are a reasonable aid, not a fix. A denture that only works with adhesive needs relining. Use a thin layer, and clean it off completely each night.

Signs your denture needs attention

Difficulty chewing, looseness, clicking, sore spots that keep returning, speech changes, food trapping underneath, cracked or worn teeth, a bad smell despite cleaning, or a change in your facial appearance.

A sore spot that does not settle within two weeks of adjustment should always be examined rather than tolerated.

Caring for a denture

Take it out at night. Sleeping in a denture is the leading cause of denture stomatitis — a red, sore, yeast-related inflammation of the palate. Gums need rest

Clean it daily with a soft brush and denture cleaner or mild soap — not toothpaste, which scratches the surface, and not hot water, which warps it

Soak overnight in water or a denture solution. Metal-framed dentures should not sit in some solutions; ask which suits yours

Clean over a towel or a basin of water; dentures break when dropped

Brush your gums, tongue and palate with a soft brush each morning. It stimulates the tissue and removes plaque

Brush any remaining natural teeth thoroughly, especially where clasps sit — those teeth are at higher decay risk

Keep up regular check-ups even with a full denture. We check the fit and examine the tissues underneath, including an oral cancer check

If a denture breaks, keep all the pieces and call us. Do not repair it with glue — household adhesives are toxic, and they make a proper laboratory repair harder or impossible.

Cost

Denture fees depend on the type, the materials and the number of teeth. You receive a written plan with all costs before treatment starts.

What drives the figure: acrylic against cobalt-chrome, the number of teeth, the quality of the tooth moulds, whether extractions or an immediate denture are involved, and whether a reline is anticipated.

Health funds generally cover dentures under major dental, often with an annual limit and a waiting period of up to twelve months. Ask for the item numbers and check with your fund before starting. HICAPS on-the-spot claiming is available. Afterpay and Zip accepted. See payment options .

Eligible pensioners and concession card holders may be able to obtain dentures through the public system at Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne, usually with a long waiting list. We will tell you if that is worth pursuing in your case.

Denture, bridge or implant?

Dentures are the least invasive and least expensive option. Their trade-off is stability and ongoing maintenance. A bridge is fixed but involves the neighbouring teeth; an implant preserves bone but involves surgery and higher cost. Many people start with a denture and move to implants later, and a denture made now is not a wasted step.

We will set out the options for your mouth, and we recommend a second opinion from another appropriately qualified practitioner if it would help.

Victorian Dental Group — 291 Wattletree Road, Malvern East VIC 3145 · (03) 9088 5808 · Monday to Friday, 8:00am–5:00pm · book online

This page is general information and does not replace advice from a registered dental practitioner about your own circumstances. Outcomes vary between individuals. Please see our Disclaimer .

Does Victorian Dental Group make dentures?

Yes — full dentures, partial dentures, overdentures and implant-retained dentures, made by a registered dental practitioner working with a dental laboratory. We are a general dental practice and holds no specialist registration. Where a case calls for a prosthodontist or an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, you are referred.

What is a denture?

A removable appliance that replaces missing teeth and the gum around them. It rests on the gums and, in a partial denture, also on the remaining teeth. It is taken out for cleaning and, in most cases, overnight.

What is the difference between a full and a partial denture?

A full denture replaces all the teeth in one jaw and rests entirely on the gum and underlying bone. A partial denture replaces one or several teeth and uses the remaining natural teeth for support, usually with clasps or rests.

Acrylic or metal — which partial denture is better?

A cobalt-chromium framework is stronger than acrylic, so it can be made thinner and covers less of the palate, and it transfers load onto the teeth rather than the gum. It costs more and needs enough sound teeth to hold it. Acrylic is cheaper, easier to add to if you lose another tooth, and is often the right choice as a temporary or transitional denture. Which suits you depends on how many teeth are missing, where they are, and the condition of the teeth that remain.

What is an overdenture?

A denture that sits over retained tooth roots, or over dental implants, instead of resting only on the gum. Keeping the roots or placing implants slows the bone loss that follows tooth loss and gives the denture noticeably better retention. An implant-retained denture requires surgery to place the implants and several months of healing before the denture is connected.

How long does it take to get dentures?

Usually several appointments over a few weeks — impressions, a bite registration, a try-in in wax so you can see the teeth before they are finished, then fitting. An immediate denture, fitted on the day teeth are removed, is a separate approach: it avoids going without teeth, but the gum shrinks as it heals, so it needs relining or replacing later.

What do dentures feel like at first?

Bulky, and they affect speech and eating for a while. Expect sore spots in the first weeks — these are normal and are adjusted at review appointments, so keep them rather than enduring the discomfort. Most people adapt over several weeks to a few months. A denture restores appearance and a good deal of function, but it does not chew like natural teeth, and a lower full denture is harder to keep stable than an upper.

How do I look after a denture?

Clean it twice daily over a basin of water or a folded towel so it does not break if dropped, using a denture brush and mild soap or a denture cleaner — not regular toothpaste, which scratches acrylic. Leave it out overnight in water unless you have been told otherwise, and brush your gums, tongue and any remaining teeth. Do not use boiling water or bleach on a metal denture.

Do dentures need to be replaced?

Yes. The jawbone continues to shrink after teeth are lost, so a denture that fitted well will loosen over time — typically needing a reline after a few years and replacement somewhere around five to ten. A loose denture is not something to fix with adhesive indefinitely; it can cause ulcers and accelerate bone loss. Keep up regular check-ups even with no natural teeth, as the soft tissues still need examining.

How do I arrange a denture assessment?

Victorian Dental Group, 291 Wattletree Road, Malvern East VIC 3145. Phone (03) 9088 5808 or email info@victoriandentalgroup.com.au, Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm, or book online. You receive a written treatment plan with costs before work starts.

Can I have teeth the same day mine come out?

Yes, with an immediate denture, on the understanding that it will need relining as the gums heal.

Will it change my face?

A well-made denture supports the lips and cheeks and often improves facial shape, particularly if you have been without teeth for a while.

How often do they need replacing?

Roughly every five to eight years, sooner if the fit changes. Relines in between are normal.

Can I sleep in it?

Not routinely. If you have a strong reason to wear it overnight, tell us and we will talk about how to protect the tissues.

How long until I can eat normally?

Soft food for the first week, most foods within a month, and some foods never quite comfortably. It improves for several months as the muscles learn.

Will people be able to tell?

Modern tooth moulds and shades are good, and most people cannot. The giveaways are usually teeth that are too white, too even, or too large for the face, which is what the wax try-in exists to prevent.