

Resin-bonded bridge

A resin-bonded bridge replaces a missing tooth and is made up of two parts, a false porcelain tooth and a nickel chromium 'wing'. The porcelain tooth looks like a real tooth, and the metal 'wing' is cemented to a supporting tooth next to the gap. This type of bridge is suitable if teeth either side of the gap are in good condition and do not need crowns.

What are the advantages?

- We remove very little tooth tissue from the supporting tooth and usually you do not need a local anaesthetic. If, in the future it is necessary to remove the bridge, your tooth will be left relatively undamaged.
- A bonded bridge relies on very strong cement to hold the wing in place. When a tooth is replaced at the front of the mouth, the wing is hidden behind the tooth. If we replace a tooth further back in the mouth the wing looks like a large silver filling.
- Occasionally the bridge may come off if the tooth is knocked, but generally the bridge can be recemented back by your own dentist. This may not be as long lasting as a traditional bridge, which relies on crowns to hold it in place.

What does the treatment involve?

You will need three appointments; the first two may last up to one hour each.

- At the first appointment we roughen the back of a front tooth (or inside the back tooth). We take impressions (or moulds) of your teeth, and a measurement to accurately record your bite. You will also be involved in choosing the colour of the replacement tooth.
- 2 weeks later we check that your bridge fits properly, make any minor adjustments necessary and then cement the bridge in place. **Wait for at least 1 hour before eating to allow the cement to harden.** Sometimes the bridge feels 'high' on your bite for a few weeks, but this will change over time as the bite settles. We will also show you the best way of keeping your bridge clean.
- At the third appointment we will re check your bite and polish the margins of the bridge.

Home Care

- **Be especially careful to clean the areas under, around and between the bridge and your natural teeth with 'Super Floss'.** This will prevent plaque and food getting trapped under the false tooth and causing an ulcer on your gum. Brush all your teeth and your bridge twice a day.
- You may eat and drink normally with your bridge. However you should take care with hard foods such as nuts. Cut up hard foods such as apples and raw carrots, rather than biting them whole.
- Avoid accidental damage to the bridge – do not bite on bottle tops, ice or other very hard objects.

Important points

- If your bridge comes away from the tooth, go back to your dentist as soon as possible so that they can fix it back. If you wait too long, your other teeth might move and the bridge will then not fit.
- Look after your bridge; see your dentist regularly to allow them to check and maintain your bridge. When your bridge needs to be replaced, you will have to pay for this.