

IMMEDIATE DENTURES

Immediate dentures are used when some or all of your existing teeth need extracting and the denture is fitted the same day as the extractions. Most immediate dentures are made of plastic and replace missing teeth and gums.

What are the advantages?

- You will not have to walk around without any teeth as the denture restores the way you look
- The denture protects the wound after the extractions.
- Most people find it easier to speak and eat with immediate dentures rather than wait for several months after extractions before having new dentures made.

What are the disadvantages?

- There is some guesswork involved in making an immediate denture since when the impressions are taken, the tooth/teeth are still present. The tooth/teeth have to be cut off the model so the shape of the remaining tissues is an educated guess. Therefore, the quality of fit of the denture may not be as good as a denture made in a conventional way.
- Following tooth extraction, the bone and gums surrounding the tooth resorbs (shrinks).
- As a result, the denture may become loose and/or space may open up underneath the false tooth/teeth. It may need to be relined to improve the quality of fit.
- You will need to reline dentures (if possible) or have a new denture after 3-6 months as the gums would shrink during that time. This would be an additional expense. Please be aware it may not be cost effective to reline dentures in some cases (usually partial dentures)

How many appointments will I need?

A great deal of care and skill is used in making the denture(s) you will receive. The number of appointments will vary according to the complexity of the situation, how many teeth are missing and the arrangement of the remaining teeth. You will usually attend over several visits at one/two-week intervals, to allow for the technical stages.

Preparing the dentures:

- We make moulds of your mouth – called ‘impressions’ with a putty like material.
- They are used to prepare exact plaster models of your teeth and gums.
- Small wax blocks that fit the plaster models are trimmed to show how your teeth should bite together and the shape to make the denture.

Fitting the dentures:

- Your mouth will be numbed up and the teeth extracted.
- The denture is placed in the mouth.
- The bite and fit are checked but not many alterations are made at this stage.
- Your dentist will advise you on how long to wear the denture(s) for and when to remove them. After this time follow the advice, we give you in the leaflets ‘Mouth Care after Extractions’ and ‘Your New Dentures’.
- We may need to see you to make adjustment to the dentures in a few days/weeks.

Additional Instructions:

I understand that the immediate dentures will need relining or renewal in a few months at additional expense. In some instances, reline option may not be available.