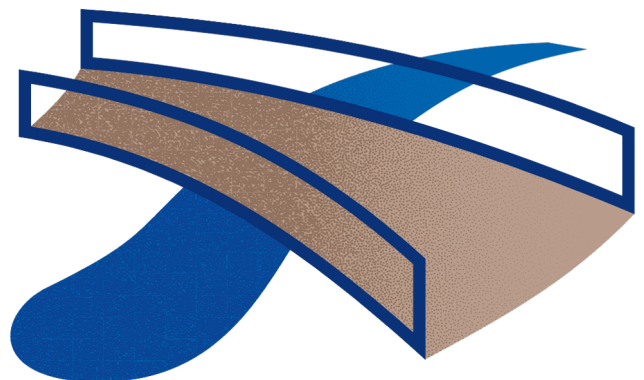


Bridges

If you have one or more missing teeth, it may be possible to place a bridge in the gap, supported by the teeth on either side.

A bridge is a method to 'add' false teeth where there are just one or two missing. A more modern way of filling these gaps is with an implant, and you may wish to consider that.

The teeth on either side of the gap are shaped and then a mould (impression) is taken. We liaise with a dental laboratory to make the appliance. Generally a bridge is made from porcelain with a metal framework underneath, which is masked by the porcelain.



Bridges FAQS

1. How long will my bridge last?

Each clinical situation is different and the life expectancy of a bridge will depend on the health and strength of the teeth which support it. Studies have shown that a bridge can usually be expected to last 10-15 years if the supports are in good health.

2. What might make a bridge fail sooner?

Obviously when a bridge is placed, the supporting teeth are subjected to a greater load than they were before, as they are now expected to carry the load on the missing tooth as well. For this reason the stronger the supporting tooth is the greater the chance of long-term success is. Teeth that have had root fillings are weaker, and studies show they more likely to fail if used to support a bridge.

3. Does the false tooth rest on the gum?

The false tooth is designed to touch the gum it sits over but not put any pressure on it. This allows cleaning under the false tooth and against the supporting teeth.

4. Will I get food stuck under the false tooth?

This is usually not a problem but you will need to use special brushes and cleaning aids to clean under the false tooth.

5. Will the bridge change colour?

The porcelain will not change colour but the other teeth around the bridge may darken with ageing. Also, with time, if there is any shrinkage of the gum on the supporting teeth, then the join between the bridge and the underlying tooth may become visible and in some situations that can be unsightly.

6. Will the supporting teeth remain healthy?

It is important to clean carefully around a bridge and to look after the supporting teeth. This usually requires additional cleaning aids as well as a toothbrush. Sometimes the nerve tissue (pulp) is affected by previous treatment on the tooth and the preparation for the bridge. This may mean that a root filling is required after the bridge has been placed, and in some situations this may weaken the whole structure.

