

# TOOTH SUPPORTED BRIDGE

A tooth supported bridge is a dental restoration that replaces missing teeth. It is made of a false tooth attached to crowns which fit over teeth on both sides of a space. A tooth supported bridge is cemented in place and cannot be taken out.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the bridge made of?

- Ceramic—used to mimic your natural tooth color
- Gold alloy—for strength and to preserve healthy tooth structure
- Ceramic fused to gold alloy—combines strength and appearance

### 2. What are the benefits of having a bridge?

- To restore your smile and improve appearance
- To recover any loss of speaking ability due to tooth loss
- To stop teeth from drifting into missing tooth spaces
- To prevent harmful jaw joint forces due to moving teeth
- To maintain comfortable chewing and bite

### 3. What are the risks of having a bridge?

- Shaping the adjacent support teeth weakens them
- The support teeth can have sensitivity after the procedure
- There is a risk that a support tooth will need a root canal
- A root canal procedure can damage or destroy the bridge
- The support teeth may become mobile if there is bone loss around their roots
- The support teeth will bear the extra chewing pressure from the missing tooth
- The bridge cement can break down with heavy chewing pressure, causing decay
- Ceramic can chip or break, especially with heavy chewing or grinding pressure
- Bridges that replace several teeth have shorter lifespans.

### 4. What are the alternatives to having a bridge?

- Replace the missing tooth with an implant
- Replace the missing tooth with a removable partial denture
- Leave the space without a tooth

### 5. How can my bite condition affect a bridge?

Excessive chewing forces and untreated bite problems:

- can cause breakdown of cement, causing decay
- can cause breakage of porcelain or gold alloy
- can cause loosening of support teeth
- can cause loss of the bridge and the support teeth

### 6. Are there any limitations once I have a bridge?

- A bridge is made in one solid piece, so normal flossing is not possible
- Ceramic bridges are made to match the natural tooth color, however, as we age, natural teeth darken, as a result the color of the bridge may seem different over time
- Recession of the gums near the bridge may cause food impaction, requiring extra effort to clean
- Recession may also expose dark tooth roots or the margins (edges) of the bridge
- A bridge may chip or break if used for abnormal activities, for example, biting a fishing line, sewing thread or finger nails, opening bottles or snack bags.



Fills spaces



Restores smile



Restores function