

Bridge

filling a gap permanently

What is a Bridge?

A bridge is a fixed restoration used to replace a missing tooth or fill in a gap. It is usually cemented or bonded into place. Properly cared for, bridges can be expected to last 20 years.

As there are a few types of bridges, your Dentist will recommend the best type for your situation. Each has advantages and disadvantages and not all will be suitable.

Direct- Resin Bridge

This bridge is the most conservative type and as it is made from tooth-coloured filling material, can be completed in one visit. It involves a false tooth being built up and bonded onto the adjacent teeth. There is minimal preparation required on the teeth.

Full-Coverage Bridge

This type of bridge is made up of a false tooth (pontic) that is attached to crowns (abutments) on either side. This involves the teeth on either side of the gap being specially trimmed and have crowns cemented onto them. This type of bridge is usually made of porcelain fused to metal. The benefits of this type of bridge is that the porcelain can be matched your teeth so it looks and feels more natural.

Resin-Bonded Bridge

This type of bridge is most commonly used for front teeth. It is made up a false tooth with two small 'wings' attached on either side. These wings which are usually made of metal are cemented or bonded onto the back (tongue side) of the two teeth on either side of the gap. This bridge is a simpler, more conservative type so the teeth require only a small amount of preparation. It is not suitable for all situations.



What's involved..

Two appointments are usually needed to make your bridge, about two weeks apart. The first appointment is usually about 1 to 2 hours to prepare for a bridge.

Our technician will need about 10 working days to make your bridge. You may be asked to visit the technician's office if a colour match is required.

The second appointment is used to try the final bridge in and cement it on permanently.

Steps to Making a Bridge

1. If there are fillings on the teeth, they may have to be replaced to ensure they are sound. If there is a part of the tooth missing, it may also need to be repaired.
2. A preliminary set of moulds is taken one week before your bridge appointment if we do not already have an appropriate set. These are used to help make your bridge later.
3. The teeth are prepared by the dentist. For a full coverage bridge, they are reduced on all sides including the biting surface.
4. A very accurate impression of the prepared teeth are taken. This impression is sent to our technician to be used to make the bridge.
5. To protect your teeth for the next 2 weeks, the dentist will make and lightly cement on a temporary, plastic bridge. It can be brushed and flossed around gently. Avoid eating sticky foods. It is only made to last for a few weeks so having the permanent bridge cemented on as soon as possible is important.
6. When the final bridge is made, we remove the temporary bridge and try it on. Only when the dentist is happy with the fit, shape and colour will it be cemented on.