

## **Bridges**

### **What are bridges made of?**

Bridges are usually made of a precious metal. If the bridge will show, porcelain is then bonded to the base. Sometimes, there are other non-precious metals used in the base for strength.

### **Are bridges expensive?**

Although a bridge may seem costly they can be a wise investment that will give many years of good service. It will also improve your appearance and bite. A bridge uses the considerable skill of the dentist and technician, and in this way, it's similar to ordering a piece of hand-made jewellery.

### **How do I look after my bridge?**

You need to clean your bridge every day, to prevent problems such as bad breath and gum disease. You also have to clean under the false tooth every day. Your dentist or hygienist will show you how to use a bridge needle or special floss, as a normal toothbrush cannot reach.

### **Why should I replace missing teeth?**

Your appearance is one reason. Another is that the gap left by missing tooth can mean greater strain on the teeth at either side. A gap can also mean your 'bite' is affected, because the teeth next to the space can lean into the gap and alter the way the upper and lower teeth bite together. This can then lead to food getting packed into the gap, which causes both decay and gum disease.

### **How are missing teeth replaced?**

This depends on the number of teeth missing and on where they are in the mouth. The condition of the other teeth also affects the decision.

### **Can I always have a bridge to replace missing teeth?**

Yes, if you have enough strong teeth with good bone support. Your dentist will help you decide which is the best way of replacing the teeth within your budget.