



What to Expect from Your New Partial Denture

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A properly-made partial denture is vastly superior to the all-plastic "quickie" sort of replacement we sometimes see. It is less bulky, more comfortable, stronger and more durable, and can last for many years with proper care and maintenance. However there are a few things you should be aware of:

The chrome-cobalt metal alloy that comprises the bulk of the denture framework is responsible for the thinness and strength of the denture. It also conducts heat, avoiding the strange insulated feeling that plastic dentures give. Because of its close fit, the framework is almost impossible to bend while it's in the mouth, but it can be badly warped by accident when it's out - so please be careful!

The metal will corrode in caustic solutions. Avoid exposing it to bleach or chlorine, and be very cautious about commercial denture cleansers and soaks. Many products that are safe for plastic complete dentures will damage partial dentures.

The wire clasps that hold the denture in place are extremely flexible, but like all metals are subject to metal fatigue, and can break after years of use. A broken clasp is repairable, but we recommend several measures to prevent breakage:

When removing the denture, slide the clasps along the tooth - don't pry them away from the tooth with your fingernails.

Avoid the temptation to adjust or tighten a clasp yourself. It isn't as easy as it looks, and each time it's bent weakens the wire. Please let us adjust them in the office.

Partial dentures are individually so that the teeth support as much of the chewing forces as possible. However there is still some force on the gum tissue. Constant wear will over-compress the tissue under the denture, and result in irritation, and sometimes swelling. To avoid this, the denture should be removed at night to let the teeth and gums rest.

All dental appliances tend to collect food and plaque. There is minimal risk of increased decay if the mouth is kept clean - you must be careful to maintain good oral hygiene. Remove the partial denture after meals, and brush it and your teeth. Brushing the gums as well will help to keep them healthy. Remember, too, that a partial denture is only as solid as the remaining teeth to which it's attached. Even adding fillings without disturbing the denture's fit can sometimes be tricky.

Finally, a period of adjustment after the denture is delivered is normal. There is no charge for normal adjustments for the first three months, so please don't hesitate to have us help!