

Lower Partial Dentures

What is a partial denture?

A lower partial denture can be a good way to replace missing teeth. When you save your remaining teeth and have a partial denture, you'll chew better, look better, and have a healthier mouth. A typical lower partial denture is held in place by metal clasps that fit around the anchor teeth.



Typical lower partial denture



Clasps for retention



Partials add support

Advantages of a partial denture

A partial denture prevents several problems. By filling in spaces, it prevents neighboring teeth from shifting. If missing teeth aren't replaced, it can set off a chain reaction that can result in cavities and periodontal disease. A partial also helps balance your bite. This means you'll chew better and have a healthier jaw joint. Partials also add support to your cheeks and lips. This support is necessary to speak clearly and look your best.

The process

The process of making a lower partial denture involves a series of appointments. Though the process varies in each individual case, it usually involves minor shaping of the teeth followed by impressions. Models are made from the impressions, and it's on the models that the partial framework and final partial denture are fabricated in a dental laboratory. After several try-ins and adjustments, the partial denture is seated.

Adjusting to your partial denture

Some temporary problems are a normal part of adjusting to a new lower partial denture. At first, it may seem bulky or tip when you chew. You may notice increased salivary flow. Your tongue may feel crowded, and you may gag a little or have difficulty speaking. But don't worry; as you get used to your new partial, these problems will go away. With time and practice, you'll make the adjustment and be eating with confidence.