Dental Bridges Melbourne: Fixed Tooth Replacement | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/dentures/dental-bridges/

Details:

A dental bridge is a fixed restoration that replaces one or more missing teeth with an artificial tooth or a series of artificial teeth. At Core Dental our dentists assess whether a bridge suits you, explain your alternatives such as removable dentures and dental implants, and give you a written quote before treatment starts. Because a bridge is fixed in place, it does not need to be removed for cleaning. Recommendations depend on an examination, and results vary for each person.

What is a dental bridge?

A dental bridge is a single artificial tooth, or a series of teeth, fixed in the mouth. A bridge can be secured to adjacent natural teeth, in which case the supporting teeth are prepared in much the same way as they are for a crown. It can also be fixed to dental implants, which require dense, healthy underlying bone to be viable.

Because a bridge is fixed, it does not need to be taken out for cleaning and maintenance, which many patients find convenient. Bridges can also be made from materials that closely match the colour and translucency of natural teeth, helping the restoration blend with the teeth around it. In terms of cost, a bridge generally sits between a removable denture and a dental implant, although the right option depends on your mouth and your goals.

How does a dental bridge differ from a removable denture?

A removable denture is taken out of the mouth for cleaning and overnight care. A bridge is fixed, so it stays in place and is cleaned as part of your daily routine, with extra attention to the area underneath it. Bridges are grouped with our other tooth replacement options in our dentures section, alongside implant-retained dentures and dental implants . Your dentist can explain how each option works for your situation.

Who is a dental bridge suitable for?

Dental bridges, sometimes called fixed partial dentures, can be used to replace between one and six missing teeth. Adult teeth can be lost through accidental trauma, infection or poor gum health. Replacing missing teeth matters functionally, because chewing, clear speech and jaw health can all be affected.

Because a bridge allows control over the length, width, alignment and shade of the artificial teeth, we may suggest it when appearance is a priority for you. A bridge may be considered where:

the teeth at each end of the gap are relatively healthy and can support the bridge

implants are an option and there is dense, healthy bone to support them

you would like a fixed solution rather than a removable one

When is a dental bridge not suitable?

Bridges are generally not suitable where seven or more teeth need to be replaced, and a denture may be an appropriate alternative in that case. They are not usually recommended where the teeth next to the gap are weak, or where there is inadequate bone density to place an implant. Your dentist will examine your teeth, gums and bite, may request imaging when clinically appropriate, and explain which options are suitable for you.

How does the dental bridge process work?

The process has three main stages, and your dentist will explain each one before you begin.

Preparing the area. We prepare the area where teeth are missing and treat the surrounding teeth and gums to make sure they are healthy. At each end of the gap, the remaining teeth are prepared to create surfaces onto which the bridge can adhere.

Taking impressions. Impressions or digital records are sent to a dental laboratory, where your bridge is made by hand. Your dentist places a temporary cap over the prepared teeth, which helps reduce the chance of sensitivity in the meantime.

Fitting your new bridge. The temporary caps are removed about two weeks later and your new bridge is fitted. Before it is permanently secured, your dentist will try it on over your teeth so you can tell us how it feels and looks.

What are the risks and limits of a dental bridge?

Preparing the teeth that support a bridge removes some tooth structure, and this cannot be reversed. Teeth can be sensitive after preparation, and a bridge can chip, loosen or need replacement over time. The supporting teeth remain at risk of decay and gum problems, so careful brushing, cleaning under the bridge and regular check-ups remain important. Your dentist will explain the material risks and the likely maintenance before you decide.

How much does a dental bridge cost, and how can you pay?

Fees depend on the number of teeth, the materials, the number of visits and the dentist, so we give you a written treatment plan and quote before treatment starts. Please confirm the current written terms, what a quoted figure includes and any health fund rebate before booking or paying, because fees can change.

We offer interest-free payment plans through Payright for amounts up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months with fortnightly instalments. Eligibility applies: you must be 18 or over, an Australian permanent resident, and able to provide ID and a verifiable email and mobile. Approval is not guaranteed. HICAPS claiming is available on-site, and any rebate depends on your own health fund cover. Read our dental payment plans page for the terms.

How should you plan your care and prepare for your visit?

A useful first step is to explain your concern, symptoms, timing and goals when you book. Bring relevant medical information and a current medicines list. Your dentist can then assess your teeth, gums, bite and surrounding tissues and explain which options are suitable.

Ask what the recommended approach is intended to achieve, whether there are reasonable alternatives, what preparation and aftercare involve, and what risks or limitations apply. Treatment time,

fees, recovery and maintenance vary with the diagnosis and the complexity of care. A written treatment plan helps you compare stages, expected appointments and payment arrangements before you proceed.

Call 000 immediately for uncontrollable bleeding, difficulty breathing or swallowing, serious facial injury or other life-threatening symptoms, and do not wait for a dental appointment in these situations. For severe tooth pain or swelling without these signs, contact your practice promptly, or see our emergency dentistry page.

Where can you have a dental bridge at Core Dental?

Our dentists provide tooth replacement treatment at our practices across Melbourne. Find your nearest practice on our locations pages, including Southbank , South Melbourne , Caroline Springs , Carrum Downs , Epping , Wyndham , Berwick , Bayside and Glenferrie . Call 13 13 16 to ask which practice suits you.

Who provides dental bridges at Core Dental?

Our general dentists plan and place bridges. Where your case needs specialist input, for example a complex restorative plan, we can involve a registered prosthodontist or another registered specialist. Learn more on our prosthodontist page and our dentists and registered specialists page.

Who is qualified to plan and place a bridge?

There is no bridge specialty, and no separate registration for one. What governs who may do this work is a single standard that applies to every procedure in dentistry.

The Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice registration standard, which applies to "all registered dental practitioners except those with student or non-practising registration", requires that "dental practitioners must only perform dental treatment: a. for which they have been educated and trained, and b. in which they are competent."

The two limbs are different tests. Education and training is formal and documentary. Competence is the practitioner's own assessment of the case in front of them — and a bridge is a case-specific judgement, because it depends on the condition of the teeth either side, the state of the bone and gums supporting them, and how your bite loads the span.

Where a case is complex, two of the Board's thirteen recognised specialties are most relevant: prosthodontics , the specialty concerned with restoring and replacing teeth, and periodontics , concerned with the gums and the structures supporting them. Both require, as a condition of specialist registration, a qualification in the specialty, all the requirements for general registration as a dentist, and a minimum of two years general dental practice. Ahpra's register records the specialty of any dentist holding specialist registration, so it can be confirmed at ahpra.gov.au.

The standard treats referral as ordinary practice. It describes all dental practitioners as "members of the healthcare team" who "are expected to work with other members of the healthcare team to provide the best possible care and outcome for their patients." It applies the same boundary to delegation: a practitioner "must not direct any person whether a registered dental practitioner or not to undertake dental treatment or give advice outside that person's education or competence."

The standard is binding rather than advisory. The Board notes that the National Law "establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this registration standard, including that registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against health practitioners as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for the health profession (see section 41 of the National Law)."

Sources: Dental Board of Australia, Scope of practice registration standard, dentalboard.gov.au (effective 1 July 2020); Dental Board of Australia, Specialist Registration, dentalboard.gov.au (page reviewed 18 March 2025). Both accessed 3 November 2026.

What is worth settling before you commit to a bridge?

A bridge commits the teeth either side of the gap to carrying it. That makes a few questions worth asking before, rather than after.

What happens to the supporting teeth? A conventional bridge requires those teeth to be prepared, which is irreversible. Knowing what is being removed, and why those teeth were chosen, is reasonable to ask.

What are the alternatives for this particular gap, and why this one? A bridge, an implant and a removable denture solve the same problem differently, and the right answer depends on your own bone, gums, bite and medical history rather than on which is newest.

What is the plan if a supporting tooth later fails? This is the question most worth asking, because the answer shapes how recoverable the situation is. A bridge that fails often takes more with it than the original gap.

Who will do the work, and what is their experience with it? The scope of practice standard requires the practitioner to have satisfied themselves on their own competence for this case, so it is a question they have already considered.

How is it cleaned? A bridge cannot be flossed in the ordinary way, and the long-term result depends heavily on keeping the margins and the space underneath clean.

None of these have a single right answer across patients. They are the questions that make the choice yours rather than something that happens to you.

Frequently asked questions

Do dental bridges need to be removed for cleaning?

No. A bridge is fixed in place, so it is not taken out for cleaning and maintenance. You clean it as part of your daily routine, including beneath the bridge, and your dentist or hygienist can show you how.

How many missing teeth can a bridge replace?

A bridge can be used to replace between one and six missing teeth. Where seven or more teeth are missing, a denture may be an appropriate alternative, and your dentist will advise after an examination.

How long does it take to get a dental bridge?

After the preparation visit, the temporary caps are removed about two weeks later and your new bridge is fitted. Your dentist will confirm the expected appointments in your written treatment plan.

Can a bridge be fixed to dental implants?

Yes. A bridge can be secured to implants instead of adjacent teeth, but implants require dense, healthy underlying bone to be viable. Your dentist can arrange imaging to assess this.

Does a bridge look like natural teeth?

Bridges can be made from materials that closely match the colour and translucency of natural teeth, so the restoration can blend with the teeth around it. Your dentist will discuss shade and shape with you.

Is there a dental specialty in bridges?

No. A bridge is a procedure rather than one of the thirteen specialties recognised by the Dental Board of Australia. What governs who may provide one is the Board's scope of practice registration standard, which requires practitioners to only perform treatment for which they have been educated and trained and in which they are competent.

Which specialties are relevant to a complex bridge case?

Among the thirteen recognised specialties, prosthodontics (restoring and replacing teeth) and periodontics (the gums and supporting structures) are the most relevant. Both require a qualification in the specialty, all the requirements for general registration as a dentist, and a minimum of two years general dental practice.

What should I ask about the teeth either side of the gap?

What will be removed from them and why those teeth were selected, since preparing them is irreversible. Worth asking alongside that: what the plan becomes if one of those supporting teeth later fails, because a bridge that fails can affect more than the original gap did.

Is a referral a sign of a problem?

No. The scope of practice standard describes dental practitioners as members of the healthcare team expected to work with other members of it for the best possible outcome. Referral is how the standard expects complexity to be handled.

Can my dentist pass part of the work to someone else?

Only within that person's own education and competence. The standard states that a practitioner must not direct any person, whether a registered dental practitioner or not, to undertake dental treatment or give advice outside that person's education or competence.

Related services and further reading

Dentures

Implant-retained dentures

Dental implants

Dental crowns

Dentures or implants for seniors

Maintenance involved in having dentures

Replacement options for missing teeth

Options if you are missing a tooth

Dental payment plans

Understanding your treatment

Core Dental at a glance

Nine Core Dental clinics across Melbourne: Southbank, South Melbourne, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Wyndham, Berwick, Bayside and Glenferrie.

Open six days a week, with Monday to Friday hours to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings.

We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans.

HICAPS on-site claiming and registered specialists across our group.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16
Booking	Online through coredental.com.au, or call 13 13 16
Hours	Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, Saturday 8.00am to 1.30pm (Bayside Saturday 8.30am to 1.30pm), Sunday closed
Clinics	Find your nearest practice

Results, recovery times and potential risks vary for each individual. This information is general in nature and is intended for people over 18. Seek advice from a qualified, AHPRA-registered practitioner before proceeding.

What is a dental bridge at Core Dental?

A dental bridge is a fixed restoration that replaces one or more missing teeth with an artificial tooth or a series of artificial teeth. Our Core Dental dentists assess suitability and explain the alternatives, risks and costs first.

How does a Core Dental bridge differ from a removable denture?

A bridge is fixed in place, so it does not need to be removed for cleaning and maintenance. A removable denture is taken out of the mouth. Core Dental dentists explain which option suits your mouth after an examination.

Can a bridge be anchored to implants at Core Dental?

Yes. A bridge can be secured to adjacent teeth or fixed to implants. Implants need dense, healthy underlying bone, so Core Dental dentists assess your bone and may request imaging before recommending this option.

How many teeth can a Core Dental bridge replace?

A bridge can replace between one and six missing teeth. Where seven or more teeth are missing, a denture may be an appropriate alternative, and your Core Dental dentist will advise after examining you.

When might Core Dental dentists advise against a bridge?

A bridge is not usually recommended where the teeth next to the gap are weak, or where bone density is inadequate for an implant. Core Dental dentists assess your teeth, gums and bite before suggesting any option.

What are the steps for a dental bridge at Core Dental?

We prepare the area and the supporting teeth, take impressions for a dental laboratory and place temporary caps. About two weeks later the caps are removed and your bridge is tried on and fitted.

Does Core Dental offer payment plans for dental bridges?

Yes. We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free Payright plans up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months, subject to eligibility and approval. HICAPS claiming is available on-site at Core Dental clinics.

How do I book a bridge consultation at Core Dental?

Call Core Dental on 13 13 16 or book online through coredental.com.au. Tell the team about your missing teeth and goals, and we will arrange an examination so a dentist can explain which options suit you.