Permanent Denture Options: Pros and Cons | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/permanent-denture-options-pros-cons/

Details:

Permanent dentures, also called fixed dentures, are replacement teeth held in position by dental implants. They are a different approach from traditional removable dentures. There are two main designs: an overdenture, which is fixed-removable and fitted over teeth or clicked onto implants, and a fully fixed denture, which is not removed at home. Each has advantages and drawbacks. At Core Dental, our dentists can examine your mouth and explain which option, if any, may suit you.

What are permanent dentures made of and how are they held in place?

Permanent dentures consist of prosthetic teeth set in an acrylic framework. They are held in position by dental implants, which are artificial tooth roots placed in the jawbone. Whether implants are suitable depends on your jawbone, gum health and general health, so an examination and imaging are needed first. You can read about the different approaches on our dental implants page, including implant-retained dentures .

What are the two main designs of permanent dentures?

Permanent dentures can be placed in two main ways.

Overdenture (fixed-removable): a denture fitted over teeth or clicked into implants. You can take it out for cleaning.

Fully fixed: a denture fixed to implants as a completely non-removable solution.

Why might someone consider permanent dentures instead of removable dentures?

Removable dentures can start to loosen and shift over time, which can lead to poorly fitting dentures that cause discomfort when eating or speaking. Wearing removable dentures for an extended period can also contribute to jawbone resorption, which is the gradual loss of bone where teeth used to be. Permanent dentures offer an alternative that may address these concerns, although they are not suitable for everyone. If you currently wear removable dentures, our page on dentures explains the conventional options and how to look after them.

What are the advantages of the overdenture option?

Advantages of a fixed-removable overdenture may include:

It is generally less costly than fully fixed options.

It is easy to remove for cleaning and maintenance.

It usually needs fewer implants for support.

It can offer a better fit and comfort than conventional dentures.

It can help to disguise jawbone deficiencies or tissue loss.

It can provide a quicker way to replace multiple missing teeth in one treatment.

What are the drawbacks of a fully fixed option?

A fully fixed denture also has downsides that are worth weighing up.

Cleaning can be more difficult.

Regular maintenance is needed, and the denture may need to be removed by a dentist for professional cleaning.

More implants are usually needed to support the denture.

It may cost more than an overdenture.

How do I decide which option may suit me?

Your dentist will consider the number of teeth missing, your bone and gum health, how you feel about removing and cleaning a denture, your budget and your goals. You can also ask how the option would be maintained over the years and what could be done if a part needed repair. Some people need care from more than one dental professional, and where this applies our general dentists can work with our registered specialists. See our page on dentists and registered specialists .

How should I plan my care and prepare for a consultation?

A useful first step is to explain your concern, symptoms, timing and treatment 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, request imaging when clinically appropriate, and explain which options are suitable.

Treatment time, fees, recovery and maintenance vary with the diagnosis and the complexity of care. A written treatment plan can help you compare stages, expected appointments and payment arrangements before you proceed, and we quote before treatment starts. Call 000 immediately for uncontrollable bleeding, breathing or swallowing difficulty, serious facial injury or other life-threatening symptoms.

The timing nobody mentions until it matters

The decision most people arrive at this page for is which option to choose. The decision that actually shapes the next few months is when the denture is measured, and it has a published answer.

The Victorian Department of Health: "if you have recently had teeth removed, measurements usually start about two to three months after your teeth have been taken out. This allows time for the gum and bone to heal and settle which means that the denture has a better fit from the start."

Two to three months is a long time to be without teeth, which is why the alternative exists — and the Department is candid about its trade-off: "immediate dentures may be considered when you do not wish to be without teeth for two to three months. Denture measurements begin before the teeth are taken out, so that the dentures are ready to be put in at the same time your teeth are removed. Changes to the bone after the teeth are removed may cause the denture to become loose over time and it may need to be adjusted and 'relined' within a few months to improve the fit. Sometimes, there

may be a need to remake the denture if there is a lot of bone and gum shrinkage."

That is the real comparison, and it is not permanent versus temporary. It is: wait, and get a better fit from the start — or do not wait, and accept that adjustment, relining, or occasionally a remake may follow. Neither is wrong. But a quote for an immediate denture that does not mention the possible reline is an incomplete quote, and it is worth asking what is included before you decide.

A further point that applies to every denture, however it was made: "all dentures may need to be replaced or relined after a period of time, as your gums change with age." No denture is a one-off purchase. Ask us what the ongoing care looks like for the option you are considering.

Source: Better Health Channel (Victorian Department of Health), Dentures, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (page reviewed 4 August 2026; accessed 4 November 2026).

What the options are, who makes them, and the part about how it feels

Two main types, with one condition attached. The Department describes "full dentures – used when all of the teeth in one jaw are missing. These dentures are made from plastic", and "partial dentures – made when some teeth are missing, but other natural teeth are present. The denture replaces only the teeth that are missing. These dentures can be made from plastic, metal or a combination of both. They usually have little metal clasps which rest or grip on the natural teeth to hold the denture in place."

The condition is the part to note: "it is important for your remaining teeth and gums to be in good health, to support the partial denture." A partial denture leans on the teeth you still have. If those teeth or their gums are compromised, that has to be dealt with first — which is one reason an examination comes before a plan.

Three kinds of practitioner can make one. "Dentures can be made for you by a dentist, dental prosthetist (advanced dental technician) or specialist prosthodontist." Worth knowing simply because it means you may be referred, and that is normal rather than a complication.

On cost, the Department says one thing and no more: "dentures are usually more affordable than other tooth/teeth replacement options." That is a relative statement with no figures attached, and we will not turn it into a price comparison — what your own treatment costs depends on your mouth, and we quote before anything starts.

And one thing most pages leave out entirely. The Department addresses how losing teeth feels: "you may need to take some time to prepare yourself emotionally for getting dentures. Research has found that tooth loss can cause emotions such as grief, denial, anger and depression. You may feel a loss of confidence or feel self-conscious when eating, talking or smiling." Its advice is simply to say so: "speak with your dental practitioner if you feel worried about getting dentures."

We would rather you did. It is a common thing to feel and not a reason to delay care, and knowing in advance that the adjustment is gradual helps: the Department notes "people often report that new dentures feel unusual and take a while to adjust to", advises starting with soft foods and small pieces, and warns that "you might not be able to eat all the same foods as before" and "you might hear your dentures 'click'". It also sets a threshold for coming back: "see your dental practitioner if you have difficulties which do not get better after a few weeks", and return "as soon as possible" if a denture presses and causes a sore spot.

Source: Better Health Channel (Victorian Department of Health), Dentures, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (page reviewed 4 August 2026; accessed 4 November 2026).

Frequently asked questions

Are permanent dentures the same as dental implants?

No. Implants are the artificial tooth roots placed in the jawbone. A permanent denture is the set of replacement teeth that attaches to those implants. Your dentist can explain how many implants may be needed for your situation.

Can I take a permanent denture out?

It depends on the design. A fixed-removable overdenture can be taken out for cleaning, while a fully fixed denture is not removed at home. Your dentist can explain how to clean and maintain the option you choose.

Does a permanent denture feel like natural teeth?

Many people find that implant-supported dentures feel more secure than removable ones, but it may not feel exactly like natural teeth. There is an adjustment period, and our dentists can talk you through what to expect.

Is everyone suitable for permanent dentures?

No. Suitability depends on factors such as jawbone volume, gum health and general health. Your dentist will assess these, and may recommend other options if implants are not appropriate.

How much do permanent dentures cost?

Cost varies with the design, the number of implants and the complexity of your case. We quote before treatment starts, and interest-free payment plans are available. Confirm current terms and any health fund rebate with our team.

How long after an extraction are dentures usually measured?

The Victorian Department of Health says measurements "usually start about two to three months after your teeth have been taken out", because that "allows time for the gum and bone to heal and settle which means that the denture has a better fit from the start".

What is the catch with an immediate denture?

Fit over time. The Department notes that immediate dentures are measured before the teeth come out so you are not without teeth, but that "changes to the bone after the teeth are removed may cause the denture to become loose over time and it may need to be adjusted and 'relined' within a few months", and that "sometimes, there may be a need to remake the denture if there is a lot of bone and gum shrinkage". Ask what a reline would involve before you decide.

Will a denture need work later even if it fits well now?

Probably. The Department states that "all dentures may need to be replaced or relined after a period of time, as your gums change with age". No denture is a one-off purchase, so ask us what the ongoing care looks like for the option you choose.

Do I need healthy teeth for a partial denture?

Yes — it rests on them. The Department explains that partial dentures "usually have little metal clasps which rest or grip on the natural teeth to hold the denture in place", and that "it is important for your remaining teeth and gums to be in good health, to support the partial denture". Any problems with those teeth are usually dealt with first.

Who can make a denture?

The Department lists three: "a dentist, dental prosthetist (advanced dental technician) or specialist prosthodontist". So you may be referred for part of the work, which is routine rather than a sign of a complication.

Related services and further reading

Dentures

Implant-retained dentures

Dental implants

All-on-4 dental implants

Conventional implants

Dentures or implants for seniors

Maintenance involved in having dentures

Replacement options for missing teeth

Dentists and registered specialists

How can we help?

If you would like to talk about permanent dentures or other ways to replace missing teeth, our team can help at any of our nine Core Dental practices. Call 13 13 16 or book online, and we will arrange an examination so your dentist can explain your options. You can also read what to expect at your first Core Dental appointment .

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: Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings.

We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans, with HICAPS on-site claiming.

Call 13 13 16 or book online.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16
Booking	Online via coredental.com.au, or call 13 13 16
Hours	Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, Saturday mornings, Sunday closed

Clinics	Southbank, South Melbourne, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Wyndham, Berwick, Bayside, Glenferrie

This article is general in nature and does not replace advice from a registered dental practitioner who has examined you. Results, recovery times and potential risks vary for each individual. This information is intended for people over 18. Seek advice from a qualified, AHPRA-registered practitioner before proceeding.

What are permanent dentures?

Permanent dentures, also called fixed dentures, are replacement teeth in an acrylic framework held in place by dental implants. Core Dental dentists can assess whether implant-supported dentures may suit your mouth.

What are overdentures and how do they attach?

An overdenture is a fixed-removable denture fitted over teeth or clicked onto implants, and it can be removed for cleaning. Core Dental dentists can explain whether this design may suit your jaw.

What does a fully fixed denture involve?

A fully fixed denture is attached to implants as a non-removable solution. It usually needs more implants than an overdenture and takes more effort to clean. Core Dental dentists can discuss the trade-offs with you.

Why do removable dentures become loose?

Removable dentures can loosen and shift over time, and long-term wear may contribute to jawbone resorption. Core Dental dentists can check your current denture and discuss whether other options may help.

What are the benefits of an implant-supported overdenture?

Benefits may include easier cleaning, fewer implants, better fit and comfort than conventional dentures, and a quicker way to replace multiple missing teeth. Core Dental dentists can explain how these apply to you.

Are fixed dentures harder to clean?

They can be. A fully fixed denture may need extra cleaning effort and professional maintenance. Core Dental dentists and hygienists can show you suitable cleaning methods for the design you choose.

Does Core Dental offer interest-free payment plans for implant dentures?

We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans, with HICAPS on-site claiming. Terms vary, so confirm current conditions, inclusions and any health fund rebate with Core Dental before booking.

How do I book a denture or implant consultation at Core Dental?

Call 13 13 16 or book online through coredental.com.au. Core Dental clinics are open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings. Tell our team about your concern when booking.