Denture care guidelines for complete (full) dentures

This section applies to patients who are fully edentulous and wear complete removable dentures, including implant-retained overdentures.



Daily cleaning

Dentures should be cleaned at least once daily using a soft denture brush and a non-abrasive, purpose-designed denture cleanser. Regular toothpaste should not be used due to its abrasive effect on acrylic surfaces.

Soaking and disinfection

Daily soaking in a commercially available denture cleansing solution is recommended to reduce biofilm and microbial load. Denture cleansers must only be used outside the mouth and dentures must be thoroughly rinsed before reinsertion. Manufacturers' guidelines should be strictly adhered to.

Overnight wear and storage

Dentures should be removed overnight wherever possible. Continuous or night-time wear is associated with increased risk of denture stomatitis and aspiration pneumonia, particularly in frail, older or institutionalised adults.

Denture adhesives

Denture adhesives may be used with well-fitting full dentures to improve retention, comfort, chewing efficiency and patient confidence. Adhesives must be removed completely every day and should not be used to compensate for poor denture fit. Long-term use of zinc-containing adhesives should be avoided.

Advice for caregivers and care settings

In care homes and dependent care settings, denture hygiene protocols should clearly differentiate between full and partial dentures. Staff should receive training on safe removal, cleaning, labelling, and storage of dentures, and oral health assessments should be incorporated into routine care plans.

Oral Health Foundation

HALEON

This guide has been produced by the Oral Health Foundation and Haleon.

For more information and expert guidance on caring for dentures please visit

www.dentalhealth.org/dentures

Denture care guidelines for partial dentures

This section applies to removable partial dentures retained by clasps, precision attachments, or implant components, and used alongside remaining natural teeth.



Daily cleaning

Partial dentures require meticulous daily cleaning using a soft denture brush and non-abrasive cleanser. Special attention should be paid to clasp assemblies, connectors, and fitting surfaces where plaque commonly accumulates.

Soaking and material considerations

Partial dentures containing metal components should not be soaked in hypochlorite or chlorine-based solutions due to corrosion risk. Denture cleansers should be selected based on material compatibility, and manufacturer guidance should be followed.

Overnight wear and storage

Where clinically appropriate, partial dentures should be removed overnight to allow recovery of oral tissues and reduce biofilm accumulation. Storage conditions should prevent distortion while avoiding prolonged immersion in incompatible solutions.

Denture adhesives

While both complete and partial denture retention should be achieved through a good fit, there is evidence to show that adhesive use can improve comfort, chewing of food, and partial denture retention.

Protecting our natural teeth

Patients wearing partial dentures must maintain excellent oral hygiene of remaining natural teeth, including twice daily toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste and interdental cleaning. Poor hygiene around abutment teeth increases the risk of caries, periodontal disease, and tooth loss.

Oral Health Foundation HALEON

This guide has been produced by the Oral Health Foundation and Haleon.

For more information and expert guidance on caring for dentures please visit

www.dentalhealth.org/dentures