

Snap-On Smile Appliances Information for Patients

What is Snap-On Smile?

Snap-On Smile is a dental appliance that involves no drills, no cutting down of existing tooth structure, no needles, and it is removable. It's non-invasive, meaning it is also reversible. It fits directly over existing teeth and can be applied to a variety of situations.

It's made with a specialized resin which allows the appliance to be made as thin as .5mm without compromising strength.

What kind of material is it made out of?

Snap-On Smile appliances are made of a crystallized type of resin called "Acetyl Resin". It is unlike acrylic, which makes it more durable and non-staining. The material is also used in heart valve replacement as well as other applications in dentistry. NASA uses it as well within their aircraft cabinetry for its durability. It is very strong.

Does it come in different shades like crowns do?

We can choose from 23 shades and 18 smile designs, giving us an array of choices for your appliance.

Who is a candidate for Snap-On Smile?

Snap-On Smile is used for urgent situations requiring change on very short notice, dental phobics and medically compromised patients, such as chemo or radiation treated patients.

It can also be used in some cases of periodontal disease as a periodontal splint for mobile teeth by strengthening the teeth going through periodontal treatment. This splint method is also helpful because the patient can easily maintain excellent oral hygiene.

Snap-On Smile appliances can also be used in certain situations to test a new look for patient having a cosmetic makeover.

A Snap-On Smile appliance is not intended to restore or repair decayed teeth. Teeth should be free of decay or other significant defects or disease before a Snap-On Smile appliance is made.

What are the steps to receiving Snap-On Smile?

If a Snap-On Smile is decided on, we will take an upper and lower impressions of your teeth and record your bite using a special bite material.

Then we will choose the preferred shape and shade together.

Beautiful and Functional Cosmetic and Restorative Dentistry

Implant Prosthesis • Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunctions • Snoring and Sleep Apnea Treatment

Certified PerioProtect Periodontal Treatment • Snap-On Smiles • Invisalign Orthodontics: Straight Teeth Without Braces

— Personal, Comfortable, Advanced Care —

Preserving What You Have • Restoring What's Been Lost • Beautifully For A Lifetime

The impressions and bite registration, along with our detailed prescription, is sent to the Snap-On Smile laboratory for fabrication.

When the Snap-On Smile appliance is received from the laboratory (this usually takes about two weeks), we will try it onto your teeth and verify that it was constructed according to our prescription and that it fits properly.

And we will show you how to use and care for the appliance.

What is the fee for a Snap-On Smile appliance?

The fee for Snap-On Smile appliances is charged per arch, meaning all of your upper teeth or all of your lower teeth. If only a portion of an arch is being treated, the fee is the same as for a full arch. This is because the laboratory charge and office time is identical whether a full arch or partial arch Snap-On Smile appliance is being created. If two portions of one arch are treated (for example, only the upper right back teeth and upper left back teeth) the full arch fee applies.

Our fee naturally depends on the individual dental situation. We will be able to establish the fee when we see you. When you call our Patient Care Coordinator will be able to help you understand the usual ranges and she can explain our payment options.

What if the appliance breaks or is lost?

First, you should understand that a Snap-On Smile is a custom-made appliance and therefore is not returnable for a refund at any time for any reason. If a Snap-On Smile appliance breaks it can be remade at no additional cost to patient up to 90 days after insertion. But please also understand that we reserve the right to charge a fee if we determine that the appliance was abused or that care instructions were not followed.

What foods should not be eaten while wearing a Snap-On Smile appliance?

You can eat and drink with your Snap-On Smile appliance. But you need to exercise some caution. We do not advise eating foods that are very difficult to chew or certain very hard items like hard candies. We advise starting with a softer diet and working your way up to harder more substantial foods. Like everything else, it takes some getting used to.

Does a Snap-On Smile appliance look natural?

Remember, a Snap-On Smile appliance fits over your natural teeth and so it adds some contour and a little bulk. If your natural teeth are large or prominent, the Snap-On Smile appliance will add a little to that. We need to decide together about this before we go ahead. In some cases, the teeth may feel bulky even if they appear to look close to normal size. This takes getting used to, and that usually happens in a few days.

How long is a Snap-On Smile appliance expected to last?

They should last 1-3 years assuming careful use and care. And remember, if your natural teeth need to be changed or repaired, there is the possibility that the appliance will no longer fit.

How do I care for a Snap-On Smile appliance?

This is critical. In addition to the normal caution about food selections mentioned above, you need to remove and clean your Snap-On Smile appliance after all meals and snacks and before sleeping. The appliance is best maintained by brushing the internal and external surfaces. To obtain the best results, clean with a soft toothbrush. You can use any toothpaste or cleanser you use for your natural teeth. Rinse the appliance very thoroughly before re-inserting it.

And you must also clean your natural teeth before you re-insert the appliance, or if this is not possible, at least rinse your mouth very thoroughly.

Can you sleep with a Snap-On Smile appliance?

For normal dentition, we DO NOT recommend sleeping with your Snap-On Smile in place. We do make an individual exception to this in specific cases.

Will it change my bite?

It depends. Sometimes we use a Snap-On Smile appliance to accomplish exactly that for specific treatment purposes. We create a prescription for the appliance that takes this into consideration. Occasionally, there is a slight increase in the bite dimension. But unless we intentionally choose to increase the bite, If there is a slight increase in occlusion, any change is minimal at most.

How does it attach?

A Snap-On Smile appliance uses the natural curvature of your teeth to hold it in place (due to the material's flexibility) by utilizing the heights of contour of each individual tooth. It will not be loose in normal function.

Can you wear a Snap-On Smile appliance every day? Will it break or tear?

Snap-On Smile appliances can be worn every day, all day. We want you to remove and clean the appliance before going to bed and not wear it in sleep unless we advise you to wear it while sleeping.

It will break if enough force is placed on the appliance. Special care is required just like any other dental appliance. The specially formulated resin is durable, but it can be abused to the point of breakage.

Is it heat tolerant?

Yes, it can tolerate hot food and drinks. It can not tolerate boiling or near boiling and should be cleaned with warm water.

Does it maintain its color?

Yes. It is made out of a non-porous, microfilm material that does not allow anything to adhere to it. It is non-toxic and hypo-allergenic. The crystallized resin has the ability not to absorb any food debris, bacteria, or discoloration. Red wine and drinking coffee will not be a problem. If you smoke, the appliance can become stained.

Can we do a try-in?

Yes, we can have a try in. However, there will be a charge if any additional appointments are needed.

Can material be added to a Snap-On Smile appliance?

Yes, a little material can be added to the margin for minor repairs or tears. This is reserved for unique situations.