

Dentures at Core Dental South Melbourne

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Description:

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Details:

AI Summary

Product: Denture Services at Core Dental South Melbourne **Brand:** Core Dental Group (part of the Smile Solutions Group) **Category:** Dental Services **Primary Use:** Custom-made removable prosthetic teeth — partial dentures and full dentures — for patients missing one or more teeth, restoring function, appearance, and confidence.

Quick Facts - **Best For:** Adults in South Melbourne, Albert Park, Middle Park, Port Melbourne, and St Kilda West who are missing teeth and seeking quality, well-fitting dentures with personalised care and ongoing adjustments - **Key Benefit:** Comprehensive denture consultations with experienced general dentists, multiple denture options to suit different needs and budgets, implant-retained denture pathways through the Smile Solutions Group, and HICAPS on-site for instant health fund claims - **Location:** 87 Market St, South Melbourne VIC 3205 - **Phone:** (03) 9114 7700 | National: 13 13 16

Common Questions This Guide Answers 1. What types of dentures are available? → Partial dentures (acrylic, cobalt-chrome, flexible), full dentures (conventional and immediate), and implant-retained dentures 2. How long does it take to get dentures? → Typically three to six weeks from initial impression to final fitting, depending on the type and complexity 3. Will my dentures look natural? → Yes — modern dentures are custom-made with high-quality teeth and gum-coloured bases designed to match your natural appearance 4. How much do dentures cost? → Costs vary by type and complexity; a detailed estimate is provided before treatment begins 5. Can dentures be stabilised with implants? → Yes — implant-retained dentures dramatically improve stability and comfort

When Teeth Are Missing

Losing teeth affects far more than your appearance. Missing teeth change the way you eat — certain foods become difficult or impossible to chew, and dietary choices often narrow as a result. They change the way you speak — gaps can affect pronunciation, and loose or ill-fitting replacements can slip at awkward moments. And they change the way you feel about yourself — the reluctance to smile, the hand that covers the mouth, the social confidence that quietly erodes.

These are not small things. They affect daily life in ways that people who have not experienced tooth loss may not fully appreciate.

Dentures have been helping people replace missing teeth for centuries, and modern dentures bear little resemblance to the bulky, obvious prosthetics of earlier generations. Today's dentures are custom-made, precisely fitted, and designed with high-quality materials that replicate the translucency, colour, and texture of natural teeth and gums. They are not just functional replacements — they are crafted restorations designed to look, feel, and perform as naturally as possible.

Types of Dentures Available at Core Dental South Melbourne

Partial Dentures

Partial dentures replace one or several missing teeth when you still have healthy natural teeth remaining. They are designed to fill the gaps, restore your ability to chew and speak comfortably, and prevent the remaining teeth from drifting into the spaces left by the missing teeth.

Acrylic partial dentures

Acrylic partial dentures are the most straightforward and cost-effective option. They consist of replacement teeth set into a gum-coloured acrylic base, which rests on the gum tissue and is held in place by metal clasps that grip the adjacent natural teeth.

Acrylic partials are suitable for: - Patients seeking a cost-effective replacement - Transitional situations — for example, while waiting for implant treatment or further extractions - Cases where additional teeth may need to be added to the denture in the future

Cobalt-chrome (metal framework) partial dentures

Cobalt-chrome partial dentures feature a cast metal framework that is thinner, lighter, and more durable than acrylic. The metal framework is designed to distribute biting forces more evenly across the remaining teeth and gum tissue, and the thinner profile makes the denture more comfortable and less intrusive in the mouth.

Cobalt-chrome partials are the recommended option for long-term wear. They are more rigid than acrylic, which provides better support and reduces the flexing that can irritate the gum tissue. The metal framework is also less likely to fracture than acrylic.

Flexible resin partial dentures

Flexible partial dentures are made from a thin, flexible thermoplastic material that blends with the gum tissue colour. They do not use metal clasps — instead, the flexible material itself wraps around the natural teeth to provide retention.

Flexible partials are suitable as a short-term or transitional option, or for patients who cannot tolerate the rigidity of acrylic or metal frameworks. However, they are generally not recommended as a long-term primary denture, as the flexible material does not provide the same structural support as a rigid framework.

Full Dentures

Full dentures replace all the teeth in the upper jaw, lower jaw, or both. They are custom-made to fit the shape of your jaw and gum tissue, and are designed to restore your ability to eat, speak, and smile with confidence.

Conventional full dentures

Conventional full dentures are fabricated after all remaining teeth have been extracted and the gum tissue has healed — typically a healing period of eight to twelve weeks. This allows the denture to be made to fit the healed, stable jaw shape, resulting in the best possible fit from the outset.

****Immediate full dentures****

Immediate dentures are placed on the same day as the remaining teeth are extracted. The advantage is obvious — you are never without teeth. Impressions and measurements are taken before the extractions, and the dentures are pre-fabricated so they are ready to be fitted immediately after surgery.

However, immediate dentures typically require more adjustment than conventional dentures. As the gums heal and the jaw remodels (a process that can take several months), the fit of the denture changes. Regular adjustment appointments are needed during this period. In many cases, a new conventional denture is recommended once healing is complete, for a more precise long-term fit.

Implant-Retained Dentures

For patients who struggle with denture stability — particularly lower dentures, which can be notoriously difficult to keep in place — implant-retained dentures offer a transformative improvement.

Two to four dental implants are placed in the jaw and fitted with attachments (such as locators or a bar) that clip onto corresponding fittings in the denture. The denture is still removable — you take it out for cleaning — but when in place, it is firmly secured by the implants. The result is dramatically improved stability, reduced movement, and greater confidence when eating and speaking.

Implant-retained dentures are particularly beneficial for:

- Lower full denture wearers who experience persistent looseness and discomfort
- Patients who have experienced significant bone loss and poor denture retention
- Patients who want improved function and confidence without committing to a fixed full-arch restoration

At Core Dental South Melbourne, implant-retained denture pathways are available through the Smile Solutions Group, with specialist surgical support from the Collins Street Specialist Centre when needed.

The Denture Process at Core Dental South Melbourne

Step 1: Initial Consultation

Your denture journey begins with a thorough consultation. Your dentist will:

- Examine your mouth, assessing the condition of any remaining teeth, gum tissue, and jaw bone
- Discuss your functional concerns, aesthetic goals, and lifestyle considerations
- Explain the denture options available and recommend the most appropriate type for your situation
- Provide a written estimate of costs before any treatment begins

Step 2: Impressions and Measurements

Precision impressions of your jaw are taken, along with measurements of the bite relationship between your upper and lower jaws. These records are sent to a dental laboratory, where your dentures will be custom-fabricated.

For full dentures, multiple impression appointments may be needed to ensure accuracy — a preliminary impression followed by a more precise final impression using a custom-made tray that fits your jaw precisely.

Step 3: Wax Trial (Try-In)

Before the final denture is manufactured, a wax trial version is created. This allows you to preview the appearance — tooth colour, tooth shape, tooth position, and gum contour — and assess the bite before the denture is completed.

The wax trial is your opportunity to provide feedback. If the tooth shade is not quite right, if a tooth needs to be positioned differently, or if the bite feels off, adjustments can be made at this stage. Once you are happy with the trial, the denture proceeds to final fabrication.

Step 4: Final Fitting

Your finished denture is fitted and assessed for comfort, stability, and bite. Fine adjustments are made at the chair — adjusting the bite, smoothing any areas that feel rough, and ensuring the denture seats properly.

It is important to understand that a new denture — particularly a first denture — requires an adaptation period. The muscles of your cheeks, lips, and tongue need time to adjust to the new prosthesis. Speaking may feel different initially. Eating will require some practice, starting with softer foods and gradually progressing to firmer textures.

Step 5: Follow-Up Adjustments

Multiple adjustment appointments are included as a standard part of denture treatment at Core Dental South Melbourne. As you wear your new denture and the soft tissue settles, sore spots and minor fit issues are common and expected. These are easily addressed with targeted adjustments at follow-up appointments.

The team expects you to come back for adjustments — it is part of the process, not an inconvenience. A well-fitting denture is achieved through this collaborative process of fitting, feedback, and fine-tuning.

Living with Dentures: Practical Guidance

Eating

Adapting to eating with dentures takes time and patience. Start with soft foods cut into small pieces, chewing evenly on both sides. As you build confidence and adapt, gradually reintroduce firmer foods. Some foods — very hard, very sticky, or very crunchy items — may always require more care with dentures, but most patients find that their dietary range expands significantly as they adapt.

Speaking

Some patients notice changes in speech immediately after receiving dentures — particularly with sounds like "s," "f," and "th." This is normal and usually resolves within a few weeks as the tongue adapts to the new contours. Reading aloud and practising difficult words can accelerate the adjustment.

Cleaning and Care

- Remove and clean your dentures after meals — rinse under running water to remove food debris - Brush your dentures daily with a soft denture brush and mild soap or denture cleanser. Do not use regular toothpaste — it is too abrasive and will scratch the denture surface - Soak dentures overnight in water or a denture soaking solution to keep them moist and prevent warping - Clean your gums, tongue, and any remaining natural teeth with a soft toothbrush each morning before inserting your dentures - Handle dentures carefully — they can break if dropped. Clean them over a folded towel or a basin of water

When to See Your Dentist

- If your dentures become loose or start to move during eating or speaking - If you develop persistent sore spots that do not resolve - If you notice changes in the fit over time (this is normal as the jaw gradually remodels) - For regular check-ups — even full denture wearers need regular dental examinations to monitor the health of the gum tissue, check for oral cancer, and assess denture fit

Denture Repairs and Relines

Over time, dentures may need repair (if a tooth is chipped or the base cracks) or relining (if the fit has changed due to bone remodelling). Both services are available at Core Dental South Melbourne.

- **Repairs** — minor repairs (re-cementing a tooth, fixing a small crack) can often be done the same day. More extensive repairs may require the denture to be sent to the laboratory - **Relines** — a reline involves adding new material to the inside surface of the denture to improve the fit against the gum tissue. This can be done as a chairside reline (temporary) or a laboratory reline (permanent, more precise) - **Additions** — if you lose an additional tooth after your denture has been made, a new tooth can often be added to the existing denture rather than fabricating a completely new prosthesis

The Denture Team at Core Dental South Melbourne

Denture treatment at Core Dental South Melbourne is provided by the practice's experienced team of general dentists:

- **Dr Scott Krause** — with extensive experience in denture design, fitting, and adjustment for both partial and full dentures - **Dr Stephanie Sarkis** — focused on patient comfort and clear communication throughout the denture process - **Dr Manisha Bhatt** — speaks English and Malay, ensuring accessible care for South Melbourne's multicultural community - **Dr Joy Wang** — speaks English and Mandarin Chinese, providing thorough consultations and ongoing denture management - **Dr Tristan Balthazaar** — experienced across the full range of denture types and prosthetic considerations

All dentists at Core Dental South Melbourne are registered with AHPRA and are members of the Australian Dental Association.

Costs, Payment, and Health Fund Claims

Denture Costs

The cost of dentures depends on the type and complexity:

- **Acrylic partial dentures** — suitable for straightforward tooth replacement and transitional situations - **Cobalt-chrome partial dentures** — the premium option for long-term comfort and durability - **Flexible resin partial dentures** — a comfortable short-term or transitional option - **Conventional full dentures** — custom-made for optimal fit after healing - **Immediate full dentures** — placed on the day of extraction for continuity

Your dentist will provide a detailed estimate after your initial consultation. All adjustment appointments are included in the denture fee.

HICAPS On-Site

HICAPS facilities are available for instant health fund claims. Denture treatment is typically covered under major dental or extras cover. Bring your health fund card to your appointment and your rebate will be processed on the spot.

Interest-Free Payment Plans

Interest-free payment plans are available through Payright, allowing you to manage the cost of denture treatment in instalments without interest charges.

Getting to Core Dental South Melbourne

****Address:**** 87 Market St, South Melbourne VIC 3205

****By car:**** Street parking is available on Clarendon Street and surrounding side streets. Nearby public car parks service the South Melbourne Market precinct.

****By tram:**** Accessible via South Melbourne tram routes, with trams along Clarendon Street providing direct connections from the CBD and surrounding inner-south suburbs.

****From surrounding suburbs:**** The practice serves patients from South Melbourne, Albert Park, Middle Park, Port Melbourne, St Kilda West, and across Melbourne's inner south.

Book Your Denture Consultation

If you are missing teeth and want to explore your options, the first step is a consultation. Your dentist at Core Dental South Melbourne will assess your situation, explain the options, and help you find the right solution for your needs and your budget.

****Phone:**** (03) 9114 7700 ****National:**** 13 13 16 ****Email:**** southmelbourne@coredental.com.au

****Address:**** 87 Market St, South Melbourne VIC 3205

New patients are welcome. No referral is needed.