

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Invisalign System General Enquiries

WHAT IS THE INVISALIGN SYSTEM?

The Invisalign System is a virtually invisible and hygienic orthodontic treatment that uses an innovative approach to effectively straighten teeth. With the proprietary SmartForce® Technology, the Invisalign System uses a series of custom-made removable aligners created for you and only you. These aligners are made of a virtually invisible plastic that you wear over your teeth to gradually move them to the ideal position. Most people won't even notice you're wearing them, allowing you to keep your lifestyle during treatment. The Invisalign System is available through Invisalign-trained doctors who determine the treatment plan.

HOW DOES INVISALIGN TREATMENT WORK?

Once you and your Invisalign-trained doctor agree that Invisalign treatment is right for you, your doctor will take photos, X-rays, and either impressions or a scan of your teeth. These records will be used to make a 3D treatment plan, referred to as the ClinCheck® treatment plan, which will be used to design the custom-made Invisalign aligners. This 3D treatment plan will also depict your likely final tooth position at the end of the treatment. Your custom-made Invisalign aligners will be produced and then shipped to your doctor, who will then provide you a series of aligners, typically 3 to 4 sets at a time. Each one will replace the next in the series approximately every 1-2 weeks until the final position for your teeth is achieved.

IS THE INVISALIGN SYSTEM A NEW TECHNOLOGY?

Doctors have long used removable appliances for less complicated orthodontic treatment. Today, with the application of the Invisalign System's 3D computer imaging technology and mass-customised 3D printing manufacturing, the Invisalign System is able to treat a broader range of teeth straightening issues with greater precision. It can be used for teeth straightening issues, such as crooked or protruding teeth, crowding, serious malocclusion, overbite, or underbite, using both non-extraction and extraction approaches.

HOW MANY PATIENTS HAVE UNDERGONE INVISALIGN TREATMENT?

More than 5.5 million patients worldwide have now started Invisalign treatment.¹ The number of Invisalign smiles grows daily.

WHAT ARE INVISALIGN ALIGNERS MADE OF?

All Invisalign aligners are made of our proprietary custom-engineered material called SmartTrack®. This medical grade, thermoplastic polymer has a high elasticity, allowing for a more precise aligner fit and better tooth movement, and providing a gentle and constant force during treatment. The aligners have been designed to give you results while maintaining comfort during treatment. The aligners are custom-made for you and fit firmly over your teeth.

DOES THE INVISALIGN SYSTEM HAVE ISO CERTIFICATION?

Yes, ISO is an international organisation that promotes standardisation and grants Quality Certifications. Align Technology is certified to the ISO 13485:2003 standard, which is granted to companies that comply with the regulatory requirements for medical equipment and devices.

¹Data on file at Align Technology as of April 25, 2018.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DO INVISALIGN ALIGNERS CONTAIN BISPHENOL-A (BPA)?

All Invisalign aligner/retainer materials are made of medical grade, high molecular weight, thermoplastic polymers. These materials were selected for use in Invisalign aligners and retainers based on their properties and safety classification, and have a long history of FDA approvals for long-term use inside the human body. Tests conducted to determine the biocompatibility of these materials show they are biocompatible and pass applicable regulatory requirements and thresholds for human wear in the mouth.

Based on current knowledge and testing of the raw materials and processes used in the manufacture of Invisalign aligners and retainers, we are not aware of any latex, parabens, phthalates, glutaraldehyde, epoxy, Bisphenol A (BPA) or Bisphenol S (BPS) present in our aligners or retainers. As with any medical device, you should consult with your health professional about your aligner or retainer treatment and any applicable risks of use.

WHAT DO INVISALIGN ALIGNERS LOOK LIKE?

Invisalign aligners look similar to clear retainers, teeth-whitening trays, or gum shields. A series of Invisalign aligners are custom-made for you. Each aligner contains the patient identification number (PID number) and the Invisalign logo.

WHAT IS TEETH ALIGNMENT?

Teeth alignment is the straightening and correction of misaligned or crooked teeth, which can be caused by, for example:
– gaps, crowding, overlapping teeth, or tooth size discrepancy. Teeth alignment allows for healthier teeth and gums, easier cleaning, overall health benefits, as well as confidence from having a smile with straighter teeth.

Is Invisalign Treatment Right for Me?

CAN INVISALIGN TREATMENT WORK ON ALL TEETH STRAIGHTENING ISSUES?

ARE THERE ORTHODONTIC ISSUES THAT INVISALIGN TREATMENT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR?

Invisalign clear aligners can treat a range of teeth straightening issues, ranging from mild tooth movements to more complex cases. You will need to have a consultation with an Invisalign-trained doctor to find out if Invisalign treatment is suitable for you.

CAN INVISALIGN TREATMENT CLOSE GAPS?

Yes, spaces between teeth are generally easy to close with Invisalign treatment. However, the size and location of the spaces will need to be evaluated by an Invisalign-trained doctor.

DOES INVISALIGN TREATMENT WORK ON OVERBITES?

Yes, Invisalign treatment can correct mild-to-moderate overbites. You should consult an Invisalign-trained doctor to determine the best treatment plan for you.

I HAVE BRIDGES. CAN I STILL UNDERGO INVISALIGN TREATMENT?

Because bridges firmly link two or more teeth together, they can offer significant resistance to tooth movement. Your doctor will be able to determine whether you are a candidate for Invisalign treatment if you have bridges.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I HAVE CROWNS. CAN I STILL UNDERGO INVISALIGN TREATMENT?

Patients with crowns can usually undergo Invisalign treatment. However, small composites called attachments are sometimes bonded onto teeth to help achieve certain movements. In these cases, the location of the crowns must be carefully evaluated by an Invisalign-trained doctor.

I HAVE TMJ (TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT OR JAW JOINT). CAN I STILL USE INVISALIGN ALIGNERS?

Individuals can have a number of problems with their jaw joint, some of which can be aggravated by appliances and treatments like the Invisalign System. To find out if your TMJ will adversely impact orthodontic treatment, consult an Invisalign-trained doctor.

I HAVE TOOTH DECAY/TOOTH FILLINGS OR PERIODONTAL PROBLEMS/GUM DISEASE (GINGIVITIS OR PERIODONTITIS). CAN I STILL USE INVISALIGN ALIGNERS?

Before receiving any Invisalign treatment, you should have good oral health and ensure that you have addressed any dental problems, including tooth decay and periodontal problems. Book in for a consultation for further details.

AM I TOO OLD TO USE INVISALIGN ALIGNERS?

No, there is generally no age limitation for Invisalign treatment. It is suitable to effectively treat both teenagers and adults of all ages. For adults, Invisalign treatment, which is a virtually invisible treatment option, may offer the convenience and flexibility to straighten your teeth without worrying about the visibility associated with other treatments.

AT WHAT AGE CAN I START USING INVISALIGN ALIGNERS?

There is generally no minimum age for Invisalign treatment. However, there is a requirement that the first premolar and first molar have erupted, which usually occurs between the ages of 12 and 14 years. Teenagers should consult an Invisalign-trained doctor to see if Invisalign treatment is the best option for them.

I AM CURRENTLY WEARING BRACES. CAN I SWITCH TO INVISALIGN TREATMENT?

A number of patients who were initially treated with braces have switched to Invisalign aligners. Book in for a consultation to assess whether you are suitable.

MY TEETH HAVE SHIFTED SINCE I REMOVED MY BRACES. CAN I USE INVISALIGN ALIGNERS TO CORRECT THIS?

A number of Invisalign patients have previously been treated with braces, often during their youth. Invisalign aligners can usually correct the shifting that occurs after treatment with braces, which is commonly referred to as relapse. These patients do so without having to go through the inconvenience and social awkwardness of wearing metal braces.

CAN I HAVE ONLY MY UPPER (OR LOWER) SET OF TEETH TREATED WITH INVISALIGN ALIGNERS?

It depends on your case; however, to ensure a good and aesthetic outcome in terms of the space between your teeth, both the upper and lower teeth are usually treated with the Invisalign System. You should consult an Invisalign-trained doctor who can check to see which treatment option is right for you.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Invisalign Treatment Process

WHAT DOES INVISALIGN TREATMENT INVOLVE?

The following are some general information regarding what to expect during your Invisalign treatment process:

- Step 1: Initially your doctor will take photos, X-rays, and digital scans (which may be referred to as an iTero® scan) or a dental impression to help formulate your treatment plan.
- Step 2: Align Technology will then use these records, along with the treatment prescription provided by your doctor to create a customised 3D treatment plan just for you (referred to as ClinCheck treatment plan). You will also be able to see the final position of your teeth at the completion of your treatment. This treatment plan is used to develop the customised aligners and will determine the duration of your treatment. Customisation of your aligners allows your teeth straightening issue to be addressed with precision.
- Step 3: The customised aligners are manufactured and shipped to your doctor's office.
- Step 4: A series of custom-made aligners (typically 3 - 4 sets at a time) will be given to you so you can change them yourself every 1-2 weeks.
- Step 5: Every 6–8 weeks you will visit your doctor so they can monitor the progress of your treatment and provide you with the next series of aligners.
- Step 6: After you have completed your Invisalign aligner treatment, you may require the use of retainers to help ensure that the new position of your teeth is maintained.

WILL I NEED TO WEAR ELASTICS?

If you require correction of your bite, you may need to use elastics as part of your treatment.

WILL I NEED TO UNDERGO POLISHING AND CONTOURING?

If you require additional space or the contact points in your teeth need to be corrected, you may need to have polishing or contouring as part of your treatment.

MY DOCTOR MENTIONED ATTACHMENTS. WHAT ARE THESE?

Depending on your specific treatment, some of the movements may require 'attachments' to help the aligner grip the teeth. The attachments are actually small pieces of enamel-coloured composite the doctor affixes to your teeth. You may also notice small indentations or 'ridges' in your aligners. These are designed to assist in achieving a specific sort of root movement and the presence of these ridges will depend on your Invisalign treatment plan.

HOW OFTEN DO I NEED TO SEE MY DOCTOR DURING INVISALIGN TREATMENT?

You will visit your doctor for a check-up approximately every 6 - 8 weeks to see how your treatment is progressing. During your check-ups, your doctor will check that the aligners are fitting well and make adjustments if necessary.

CAN I GET ALL MY ALIGNERS AT ONCE?

You will be provided with enough aligners to last between visits to your doctor (usually 3–4 sets of aligners at a time). Your doctor will review your progress each six to eight weeks and at these appointments new aligners will be provided. Please speak with your doctor about how many aligners you can be provided with between visits.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I STORE MY INVISALIGN ALIGNERS WHEN I AM NOT WEARING THEM?

Two aligner cases are included in your patient starter kit.

HOW OFTEN DO I CHANGE MY ALIGNERS?

You will usually change your aligners yourself every 1-2 weeks. However, please follow your doctor's specific instructions regarding when you need to change your aligners, as this may vary from patient to patient.

HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE I SEE RESULTS?

Results with the Invisalign System start to show a few months after starting treatment.

MY DOCTOR MENTIONED CLINCHECK SOFTWARE. WHAT IS THIS?

The ClinCheck treatment plan is a unique, proprietary 3D treatment planning technology specifically for use with the Invisalign System. It allows your doctor to customise the appropriate treatment plan for your needs from the beginning to the end of your treatment, and may provide more precise treatment. It also allows you to know how long your treatment will take and you will be able to see what your teeth will look like at the end of your Invisalign treatment course.

CAN I SEE WHAT MY TEETH WILL LOOK LIKE AFTER TREATMENT?

The ClinCheck treatment plan, which is a 3D treatment planning technology, will allow you to visualise the final position of your teeth at the end of your treatment course.

MY DOCTOR MENTIONED PONTICS. WHAT ARE THESE?

If you need to have your tooth or teeth extracted as part of your treatment, your aligner will have a "pontic". The innovative pontic is disguised as a tooth and located where your tooth was extracted so that no one should know you are in treatment.

MY DOCTOR MENTIONED REFINEMENT. WHAT IS THIS?

Following the straightening of your teeth, you may require a second phase of treatment to allow further correction. You will need to return for scans/impressions and have additional aligners produced to achieve the desired outcome.

MY DOCTOR MENTIONED RETENTION. WHAT IS THIS?

Retention is an important part of your treatment plan and is designed to help prevent your teeth from moving out of alignment again. There are many retention options available, including Invisalign retainers which are similar to Invisalign aligners and can be worn to hold your teeth in the desired position. Depending on your doctor's recommendation, the retainer may only need to be used at night or for longer periods.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Cases Requiring Extraction

CAN INVISALIGN TREATMENT BE USED FOR PATIENTS WHO REQUIRE TEETH EXTRACTION?

Extraction of premolars or lower incisors, for example, is an option for addressing bite issues and orthodontic issues which would otherwise need surgical treatment to correct. Depending on the stage of your physical development and your specific case, your doctor will determine whether extraction is suitable for you.

IF I HAVE CROWDED TEETH, WILL MY DOCTOR RECOMMEND EXTRACTION?

When you have your orthodontic assessment, the treating doctor will review your tooth alignment and assess whether you have the right amount of space, excess space, or too little space (i.e. crowded teeth). In some patients, if the crowding is severe, extraction of premolars may be required so that your treating doctor can align your teeth during treatment.

CAN I CORRECT BUCKED TEETH WITH EXTRACTION?

Some patients who enquire about orthodontic treatment have concerns about their full profile (or 'bucked teeth'). For these patients extraction treatment may help to improve their profile and reduce the protruding appearance of their front teeth. It is recommended that you have a consultation to determine the best treatment plan for your needs.

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO MASK THE AREA OF MY MOUTH IN WHICH MY TEETH WERE EXTRACTED? I AM CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT I WILL LOOK LIKE FOLLOWING EXTRACTION.

If you need to have your tooth or teeth extracted as part of your Invisalign treatment, your aligner will have a "pontic". The innovative pontic is disguised as a tooth and located where your tooth was extracted so that others may not know you are in treatment.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Daily Considerations with the Use of Invisalign Aligners

HOW SHOULD THE ALIGNERS BE INSERTED?

Make sure to wash your hands well before handling your aligners, and handle only one aligner at a time. Rinse your aligners well when removing them from their packaging. Follow these steps when inserting your aligner:

1. Make sure you have the proper aligner – there is one specifically for your top teeth (engraved with a "U" for upper) and one for your bottom teeth (engraved with an "L" for lower).
2. Either aligner may be inserted first.
3. When inserting each aligner, gently push the aligner over the front of your teeth and then apply equal pressure with your fingertips to the tops of your left and right molars (back teeth) until the aligner snaps into place.
4. Do not bite your aligners into place as this may damage them.
5. If you notice a sharp pain or have significant discomfort, discontinue the use of the aligners and contact your doctor.

HOW SHOULD THE ALIGNERS BE REMOVED?

Make sure to wash your hands well before handling your aligners, and handle only one aligner at a time. Remove your aligners following these steps:

1. On one side of your mouth, use your fingertip on the inside of your back molar to slowly pull the aligner from your molars (back teeth).
2. Repeat this process on the other side of your mouth before trying to completely remove the aligner.
3. Once the aligner is disengaged from the molars on both sides of your mouth, you should be able to slowly work your way forward gently prying the aligner away from your teeth with your fingertips.

Other things to keep in mind when removing the aligners:

- Immediately rinse the aligner with water, shake off excess water, and store your aligners in their protective case.
- Avoid unnecessary removal of your aligners to prevent damage.
- Take care when removing your aligners, particularly if multiple attachments are being used.
- Do not use excessive force to bend or twist an aligner; also do not use any sharp object when removing.
- Consult your doctor if you have difficulties in removing the aligners.

HOW LONG DO I NEED BEFORE I CAN CHANGE TO THE NEXT SET OF ALIGNERS?

Follow your doctor's advice regarding how often to change your aligners. Typically you can change your aligners by yourself every 1-2 weeks unless your doctor recommends otherwise. You will return to your doctor approximately every 6-8 weeks to monitor the progress of your treatment.

SOMETIMES WHEN I REMOVE MY ALIGNERS, MY TEETH FEEL LOOSE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Your doctor should take a look and make sure everything is ok. However, as your Invisalign aligners gradually shift your teeth into their proper position, your gums are re-forming around each tooth as it moves. This may be what is causing this feeling.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY ALIGNERS NO LONGER FIT?

If your aligners no longer fit, you should immediately contact your doctor, who will diagnose what remedial action may be needed. This may involve moving back one or two stages in treatment to a previous aligner or possibly the use of some additional orthodontic treatment.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY ALIGNER IS LOST OR BROKEN?

Contact your doctor if you have lost or broken an aligner. As your doctor may recommend that you temporarily go back one stage while a replacement is being made, it may be helpful to keep the most recently used aligners.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO CLEAN MY ALIGNERS?

Clean your aligners using a soft toothbrush with water before inserting them into your mouth. Your aligner should be rinsed with water after each cleaning, and it is recommended that you use your aligner cleaning products once a week or as needed. It is recommended that you remember to brush and floss your teeth after each meal and prior to re-inserting your aligners to maintain proper oral hygiene.

WHAT ORAL HYGIENE SHOULD I BE AWARE OF DURING MY TREATMENT?

Follow these steps to help ensure proper oral hygiene while undergoing treatment:

1. Remove your aligners before eating and drinking. But you do not need to remove your aligners to drink cold water.
2. Brush and floss your teeth after each meal or snack prior to re-inserting your aligners. If you do not have access to your cleaning system or a toothbrush, you can simply rinse your mouth, and then clean your aligners by holding them under warm running water. Be sure to thoroughly clean your aligners at your earliest convenience.
3. If you have any questions regarding oral hygiene techniques, please consult your doctor.
4. Regular dental check-ups and cleaning are recommended for the continued health of your teeth and gums.

DO I NEED TO BRUSH MY ATTACHMENTS SEPARATELY?

Your attachments are not removable. They should be cleaned as part of your regular oral hygiene regimen, by brushing your teeth.

DO I NEED TO WEAR THE ALIGNERS ALL DAY?

You should wear each aligner 20 to 22 hours per day during your treatment for best results and a timely outcome.

ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON WHAT I CAN EAT WHILE IN TREATMENT (OR DURING MY TREATMENT)?

No, you can usually eat whatever you desire while in treatment because the Invisalign aligners are removed when eating/drinking. Thus, there is no need to refrain from your favourite foods and drinks unless instructed by your doctor. However, it is recommended that you floss and brush your teeth after each meal and prior to re-inserting your aligners to maintain proper oral hygiene.

CAN I DRINK HOT OR COLD BEVERAGES WHILE WEARING MY ALIGNERS?

Except for cool water, we recommend that you do not drink while wearing the aligners. This is to avoid formation of cavities and stains on your teeth, or warping of the aligners with hot beverages.

CAN I DRINK ALCOHOL WHILE WEARING THE ALIGNERS?

You should remove your aligners to consume anything except for water. Leaving aligners on while drinking may stain them and you may risk developing tooth decay while consuming fluids with sugar in them.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN I SMOKE WHILE WEARING MY ALIGNERS?

We discourage smoking while wearing aligners because it is possible for the aligners to become discoloured.

CAN I CHEW GUM WHILE WEARING THE ALIGNERS?

You should not chew gum while wearing your aligners as the gum may stick to the aligner. We recommend removing your aligners for all meals and snacks, and for chewing gum.

CAN THE ALIGNERS SLIP OFF WHILE I'M SLEEPING?

It is very unlikely that your aligners will ever fall out, no matter what you were doing at the time (such as sleeping, talking and laughing). Invisalign aligners are designed to fit firmly on the teeth, so this should not be a cause for concern.

WILL WEARING THE ALIGNERS AFFECT MY SPEECH?

Similar to other orthodontic treatments, the Invisalign aligners may temporarily affect the speech of some people for a day or two. However, as your tongue gets used to having aligners in your mouth, any misarticulation or minor speech impediment caused by the aligners should disappear. Please contact your doctor about ways to help you adapt more quickly to wearing the aligners.

IF I FEEL THAT MY TEETH LOOK STRAIGHT ENOUGH, CAN I STOP THE TREATMENT?

It is important that you follow the treatment plan developed by your doctor to ensure the best outcome. Your doctor will determine the recommended treatment duration for you dependent on several considerations including the spacing between your teeth and the need for retention.

IF I AM TRAVELLING, CAN I GET ADDITIONAL ALIGNERS AT MY APPOINTMENT WITH THE DOCTOR?

It is recommended to visit your doctor for regular visits to ensure your treatment plan is on track. If you need additional aligners due to travel periods, consult your doctor as this is dependent on your specific case and treatment plan.

I AM MOVING TO A DIFFERENT COUNTRY. HOW CAN I CONTINUE MY TREATMENT?

Invisalign treatment is available in more than 100 countries worldwide, and you can transfer your Invisalign treatment to another provider to continue your treatment. Please contact your current doctor to discuss the process.

CAN I WEAR ALIGNERS IF I'M PREGNANT?

The aligners are made of non-toxic, medical grade plastic and can be worn during pregnancy. If you are concerned, please consult your healthcare professional.

IS INVISALIGN TREATMENT PAINFUL?

While Invisalign treatment may move your teeth without the pain and anxiety of other straightening methods, some people might experience temporary, minor discomfort for a few days at the beginning of each new stage of treatment. This is normal and is typically described as a feeling of pressure. It is a sign that the Invisalign aligners are sequentially moving your teeth to their final positions. This discomfort typically goes away a couple of days after you insert the new aligner in the series.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I AM EXPERIENCING PAIN AND DISCOMFORT WHILE USING MY ALIGNERS. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you notice a sharp pain or have significant discomfort, discontinue the use of the aligners and contact your Invisalign-trained doctor.

ARE THERE ANY WARNINGS OR CONTRAINDICATIONS WITH THE USE OF INVISALIGN ALIGNERS?

Invisalign treatment is contraindicated in patients with active periodontal disease. If you have periodontal (gum) disease, you should consult your doctor before undergoing Invisalign treatment. Warnings with Invisalign treatment include:

- In rare instances, some patients may be allergic to the aligner material. If this occurs, discontinue use and consult a healthcare professional immediately.
- In rare instances patients with hereditary angioedema (HAE), a genetic disorder, may experience rapid local swelling of tissues including the larynx. This may be triggered by mild stimuli including dental procedures. If this occurs, discontinue use and consult a healthcare professional immediately.
- Orthodontic appliances, or parts thereof, may be accidentally swallowed or inhaled, and may be harmful.

WHY DO SOME OF MY ALIGNERS HAVE BUMPS OR RIDGES ON THEM?

Depending on your specific treatment, some of the movements may require either “attachments” or “ridges” to help the aligner grip the teeth. These bumps or wells are where the aligner grips the attachment the doctor places on your teeth. The attachments are actually small pieces of composite the doctor affixes to your teeth that are then gripped by bumps on your aligners. The ridges are slim indentations in your aligners. Your doctor will use one or both of these features to attempt to achieve the desired movement.

ARE THE ALIGNERS REALLY INVISIBLE?

Aligners are virtually invisible and discreet, so most people will not even notice that you are wearing them.

Technology and Manufacturing

WHAT DOES MY DOCTOR MEAN WHEN HE SAYS MY ALIGNERS ARE CUSTOMISED?

Your doctor will use proprietary 3D computer imaging technology to map your complete and unique treatment from start to finish. This treatment plan is unique to your specific teeth alignment issue, and involves the use of customised aligners that are designed and manufactured to fit your teeth at specific times during your treatment. Use of customised aligners allows for precision, efficacy, and comfort during treatment.

MY DOCTOR MENTIONED THE iTERO® SCANNER. WHAT IS THIS?

The iTero intraoral digital scanner provides digital impressions of your teeth without the need for having manual and uncomfortable impressions taken of your teeth. The iTero scanner coupled with the ClinCheck treatment plan allows you to see what your teeth will look like at the end of treatment.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MY DOCTOR MENTIONED SMARTFORCE® FEATURES. WHAT ARE THESE?

SmartForce are proprietary, engineered attachments and aligner features that may be incorporated into the Invisalign aligners and are designed to allow teeth to move in a predictable way during treatment.

MY DOCTOR MENTIONED SMARTTRACK® MATERIAL. WHAT IS THIS?

Invisalign aligners are made of SmartTrack, a highly elastic, proprietary material that delivers gentle, more constant force for controlled tooth movements.

MY DOCTOR MENTIONED SMARTSTAGE® TECHNOLOGY. WHAT IS THIS?

SmartStage is a proprietary technology that is designed to optimise the progression of your tooth movements during treatment, resulting in predictable outcomes.

ARE MY ATTACHMENTS REMOVABLE?

No, the attachments are not removable. If you have any issues with your attachments during treatment, please consult your doctor.

WHO MAKES INVISALIGN ALIGNERS?

Invisalign aligners are manufactured by Align Technology, Inc. Align Technology was founded in 1997 and is headquartered in San Jose, California with offices worldwide. The Invisalign System is offered directly by Align Technology in more than 100 countries.

HOW OLD IS THE INVISALIGN TECHNOLOGY?

The vision of the use of clear aligners for comprehensive orthodontic treatment first began in 1945. In 1999, Align Technology pioneered the invisible orthodontic market with the introduction of the Invisalign System. By 2001, 1 million clear aligners had been manufactured. By combining digital treatment planning, including 3D technology, and mass-customisation, the orthodontic industry has been transformed. As of April 2018, over 5.5 million patients have started Invisalign treatment.

WHAT ELSE DOES THE MANUFACTURER OF INVISALIGN ALIGNERS MAKE?

Align Technology, the makers of Invisalign aligners, is a global medical device company. They provide industry leading innovative products such as Invisalign aligners, iTero intraoral scanners, and OrthoCAD digital services that help dental professionals achieve the clinical results they expect, as well as providing effective, leading-edge dental options to patients.

WHERE ARE INVISALIGN ALIGNERS MANUFACTURED?

All Invisalign products are designed, manufactured and marketed by Align Technology, whose global headquarters are in California, USA, and manufacturing operation unit is in Juarez, Mexico.

INVISALIGN® SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Product Problem

ONE OF MY ALIGNERS HAS CRACKED. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If your Invisalign aligner cracks or tears for any reason, it is very important to contact your doctor right away. Please do not wear the cracked aligner. A cracked or torn aligner may not be able to exert the right pressure for proper tooth movement so the aligner will need to be replaced.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I BREAK OR LOSE AN ALIGNER?

In the event that an aligner is lost or broken, you should immediately inform your doctor. Your doctor will probably tell you to start wearing your last set or next set of aligners immediately. He or she will possibly order a new set of aligners to replace the ones you just lost.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I BREAK OR LOSE AN ATTACHMENT?

In the event that an attachment is lost or broken, you should immediately contact your doctor.

MY ATTACHMENTS HAVE TURNED YELLOW. WHAT CAN I DO?

Your attachments should continue to match your teeth and should not turn yellow. Please speak with your doctor, as he or she may need to fully remove the stained attachments and replace them.

MY ALIGNER HAS A SHARP EDGE. IS THIS NORMAL?

If your Invisalign aligners feel like they are irritating your gums or cheeks, they may need to be assessed. We recommend that you give your doctor a call so that he/she can evaluate the fit and determine what needs to be done.

Aftercare Once Invisalign Treatment is Complete

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER MY INVISALIGN TREATMENT IS COMPLETE TO PREVENT MY TEETH FROM MOVING AGAIN?

This varies individually, depending on the outcome of each treatment. Patients may require retainers. The types of retainers include those fixed to the teeth, removable plastic retainers, or Invisalign retainers - which are similar to the aligners. Discuss these possibilities with your treating doctor. Every patient is different and outcomes do vary.

WILL I NEED A RETAINER ONCE MY INVISALIGN TREATMENT IS COMPLETE?

Wearing a retainer after any orthodontic treatment is an important step, because it keeps teeth stable in their new positions. If you want your teeth to remain in their ideal position for the rest of your life, it is best to wear a retainer as directed by your doctor. Your Invisalign-trained doctor can advise you on your retention options.

WILL THE POSITION OF MY TEETH MOVE AGAIN WHEN I COMPLETE INVISALIGN TREATMENT AND NO LONGER WEAR THE ALIGNERS?

After you complete Invisalign treatment, like those patients who undergo traditional wire-and-bracket treatment, your Invisalign-trained doctor will ask you to wear a retainer to prevent your teeth from moving out of alignment. Depending on your doctor's recommendation, the retainer may only need to be used at night or for longer periods.