# Orthodontics: A Beautifully Straight Smile for a Lifetime

Did you know that nearly one out of four orthodontic patients is over the age of 21? Many DentalWorks affiliated practices offer affordable treatment for adults and children, along with innovative options such as Invisalign® clear aligners and fast-acting six-month programs.

More and more adults are benefiting from orthodontic braces. Having your teeth, jaws, and lips properly aligned can do more than just give you a beautiful smile. It can help prevent many of the problems caused by misaligned teeth, including:

- Gum disease
- Tooth decay and loss
- Speech impairments
- Difficulties chewing and swallowing
- Chronic headaches
- Neck pains

Using the finest materials and the latest technology, DentalWorks affiliated dentists that offer orthodontic services can correct crowded, protruding, or irregularly spaced teeth; overbites; underbites; jaw-joint disorders; and misalignments.

Preventive dental care measures may eliminate the need for youth or adult braces entirely. The key is to schedule an appointment at the nearest DentalWorks affiliated practice as soon as you think there might be a problem.

## **Orthodontic Braces: Adult Braces and Youth Braces**

Orthodontic braces use tiny brackets attached to your teeth. Thin wires are then threaded through the brackets to exert a light yet constant pull that gently straightens the teeth over time. Throughout your treatment, your orthodontist will check your progress and make any needed adjustments. Youth and adult braces come in different shapes, colors, and materials. Talk to your orthodontist to decide which kind of orthodontic braces is best suited to treat your particular condition.

## Invisalign® Clear Aligners/Invisalign Braces

Invisalign braces are clear aligners that offer a welcome alternative to metal wires or bands for many people. This dental health treatment consists of a series of virtually invisible custom-molded Invisalign aligners that can be removed whenever you eat, drink, brush, or floss. As you replace one set of Invisalign aligners with another every two weeks or so, your teeth gradually begin to straighten out and line up correctly. The entire process usually takes anywhere from six months to a year.

#### **Orthodontic Spacers**

If teeth are crowded, orthodontic spacers may need to be applied before the braces are put on. The orthodontist uses these clear or metal bands to create additional space between teeth.



## **Orthodontic Retainers**

After the orthodontic braces come off, removable or fixed orthodontic retainers are often recommended to help prevent teeth from moving while the surrounding gums and bone adjust to the new alignment. Molded for a custom fit, the orthodontic retainers attach to both upper and lower teeth and are usually worn at night.

## **Easy Monthly Payments for Your Dental Care**

It's hard to picture that perfect smile if you're worried about how much it's going to cost. That's why DentalWorks affiliated practices offer monthly dental care payment plans that make it easier for you to keep the whole family smiling.

Most DentalWorks affiliated practices offer orthodontic services. <u>Search for the practice</u> <u>nearest you to find out</u>.