

FAQ's About Removable Partial Dentures with Locator Attachments

What is a Removable Partial Denture with Locator Attachments?

A Removable Partial Denture (RPD) with Locator Attachments is an appliance that replaces one or more missing teeth. It is not cemented in the mouth and can be taken out. A traditional RPD is retained in the mouth by metal clasps that clip onto existing teeth. An RPD with locator attachments is retained by snapping the appliance onto implants that have been placed in the jawbone. This greatly improves stability and retention of the RPD.

What material is in an RPD with Locator Attachments?

The framework of an RPD is made of a metal alloy for strength. The teeth are made of white acrylic or porcelain. The teeth are attached to the metal framework by pink acrylic which simulates gums. Locator Attachments are plastic and the implants they attach to are titanium.

What are the benefits of an RPD with Locator Attachments?

Locator Attachments greatly improve retention and stability of an RPD. As well, they improve esthetics by reducing or eliminating the need for unsightly metal clasps.

What are the risks of an RPD with Locator Attachments?

Locator attachments wear out over time and need to be replaced. Denture acrylic covering the locator attachment may chip if it is thin due to a limited space in the mouth.

What are the alternatives to an RPD with Locator Attachments?

- *A traditional RPD*
- *A bridge*
- *A complete denture*
- *Implants which attach to*
 - *Crowns or bridges*
 - *A complete denture*
- *Leave your mouth as it is*

How can an existing bite affect an RPD with Locator Attachments?

Uneven or excessive bite forces may cause wear and fracture of the denture teeth, denture base, denture clasps, natural teeth and locator attachments. Unmanaged bite issues can also cause implants to loosen within the bone and break. Broken or loose implants must be surgically removed.

Are there any post treatment limitations once I have an RPD with Locator Attachments?

To keep the tissue under the appliance healthy and to prolong the life of the locator attachments, your RPD should be left out of your mouth during sleep. The teeth in the RPD are not as strong as your natural teeth and you will not be able to chew as heavily on them. The appliance will tend to get food trapped underneath it and you may have to remove and clean it after eating.