



Do I Need a Dental Checkup?

Everyone needs regular dental checkups. The reason is simple: even if you brush and floss every day, only your dentist is trained to notice problems with your teeth, gums and mouth. During a checkup, your dentist looks for gum disease,

cavities, loose fillings, broken teeth, infection, early signs of oral cancer, and signs of other problems that could affect your general health.

Even if you have dental implants or wear dentures, your dentist will check to see if they are:

- Wearing out anywhere.
- Fitting properly.
- Being properly cleaned.

If you take medicine that makes your mouth dry, or causes your gums to swell, you need to have a dentist take a close look.

What is a dental checkup?

A dental checkup is a thorough examination of your teeth, gums, mouth and related areas around the mouth. The checkup usually includes some or all of the following:

1. Medical history update

During the checkup, tell your dentist about your general health. Tell your dentist if you:

- Smoke.
- Have any allergies.
- Wear a medical device like a pacemaker.
- Are pregnant.
- Are taking any over-the-counter or herbal medications (if so, give your dentist a list of your medications and dosage information).
- Have changed medication since your last checkup.