

Practice a good oral hygiene routine

FACT: Oral diseases, such as tooth decay (dental caries) and gum disease, can impact every aspect of life, from relationships and self-confidence through to school, work, and the ability to interact with others. Yet they are preventable.







What is a good oral hygiene routine?

Here's how you can help keep your mouth healthy throughout life:

- Brush for two minutes, twice a day. Toothbrushing helps remove food and plague, which if not managed can lead to tooth decay and gum disease.
- **Brush every surface.** Use a manual or electric toothbrush to brush the inside surfaces, outside surfaces and chewing surfaces of your teeth.
- Use a fluoride toothpaste. Fluoride plays a key role in the fight against tooth decay.
- Do not rinse with water straight after brushing. Spit out any excess toothpaste instead.
- Replace your toothbrush every three months. Brushing with an old, frayed toothbrush will not clean your teeth and mouth properly.
- Floss at least once a day. Regular cleaning helps to dislodge food and may reduce gum disease and bad breath by removing plaque that forms along the gum line.
- Protect your mouth while you're on the go. When brushing is not possible, rinse
 with a fluoride mouthwash or chew sugar-free gum after meals and snacks.

Good oral health can help you live a longer, healthier life