

# Replacing missing teeth

All your teeth work together to help you chew, speak, and smile. When teeth are missing, it is difficult to do these things. Also, the loss of a back tooth may cause your mouth to sink and your face to look older. If one or more teeth are missing, your dentist can replace them with a crown, a fixed bridge or a removable denture. Discuss replacement options with your dentist to find one that meets your needs. (Also see “Spotlight on Implants” on the next page.)

# Improving the look of your smile

Your dentist has many different techniques to shape, sculpt, and make your smile more beautiful. With a few simple steps, you can have a smile you feel great about. And treatment may be more affordable than you think. What are you waiting for? Make your smile the best it can be!

Here are some issues that can be corrected by dentists:

- **Discolored or darkened teeth** can be lightened with whitening treatments or veneers, thin ceramic shells that fit over the teeth.
- **Broken or chipped teeth** can be corrected with bonding, in which an enamel-like resin is added to a tooth, sculpted into shape and polished.
- **Gaps between teeth** can be filled in with veneers or with a bonding material that matches your tooth color.
- **Poorly shaped teeth** can be reshaped by contouring tooth enamel, the outer layer of the tooth structure.
- **Gummy smiles** can be corrected by contouring the gum tissues.
- **Crooked teeth** can be straightened with braces or other methods.



Before veneers



After veneers