

## Invisalign – Frequently Asked Questions

- [What is Invisalign®?](#)
- [What are the primary benefits of Invisalign?](#)
- [How do I get started with Invisalign?](#)
- [How will Invisalign effectively move my teeth?](#)
- [What are aligners made of, and what do they look like?](#)
- [How old is the company?](#)
- [How old is the technology?](#)
- [How many patients are being treated with Invisalign?](#)
- [Has the FDA cleared Invisalign?](#)
- [Do Invisalign aligners contain Bisphenol-A \(BPA\)?](#)

### What is Invisalign®?

The Invisalign® system is the virtually invisible way to straighten your teeth and achieve the dazzling smile you've always dreamed of. Using advanced 3-D computer-imaging technology, Invisalign depicts your complete treatment plan, from the initial position of your teeth to the final desired position. Then a series of clear aligners are custom-made for your teeth – and your teeth only – to move them little by little. Each aligner is worn for about two weeks before being replaced by the next in the series, until the final position of your teeth is achieved. Your Invisalign treatment time will be determined by your doctor, based on your specific needs.

### What are the primary benefits of Invisalign?

- Invisalign aligners are practically clear. No one may even notice that you're wearing these virtually invisible "braces," making Invisalign a seamless fit with your lifestyle and day-to-day interactions with others.
- Invisalign is removable. Unlike braces, you have the flexibility to eat and drink what you want during treatment by simply removing the aligners. And you can also remove the aligners to brush and floss as you normally would for fresh breath and good oral hygiene.
- Unlike braces, there are no metal brackets or wires with the Invisalign system that could cause irritation to your mouth. Plus since your office visits during treatment don't involve metal or wire adjustments, you'll likely spend less time in the doctor's chair.
- And finally, Invisalign allows you to view your virtual results and treatment plan before you start so you can see how your straight teeth will look when your treatment is complete.

### How do I get started with Invisalign?

[It's simple, just make an appointment with an Invisalign-trained doctor for an initial consultation. Many doctors offer free initial consultations.](#) For the best experience, take the time to find the "right" doctor — one who you feel comfortable with and who has experience treating cases like yours. Like with other important dental decisions, sometimes it is worthwhile to seek out a second or even third opinion. Use our Find-A-Doctor feature to find the most experienced Invisalign-trained doctor near you. Doctors designated as Premier Providers have a greater levels of case experience. Those labeled Premier Provider Elite have the highest levels of case experience. Make sure you trust your smile to an experienced doctor who uses the latest techniques.

### How will Invisalign effectively move my teeth?

Like brackets and arch wires are to braces, Invisalign aligners move teeth through the appropriate placement of controlled force on your teeth. The main difference is that Invisalign not only controls forces, but also the timing of the force application. During each stage, only certain teeth are allowed to move. These movements are determined by your doctor as he or she maps out your unique Invisalign treatment plan.

### What are aligners made of, and what do they look like?

The virtually invisible aligners, which are made of a thermoplastic material uniquely developed for the Invisalign treatment plan, look similar to tooth-whitening trays. Invisalign aligners are custom-made for you and only you to move your teeth in the sequence determined by your doctor.

### How old is the company?

Align Technology, Inc., the company that manufactures Invisalign, was founded in 1997.

### How old is the technology?

In 1945, Dr. H.D. Kesling envisioned that one day modern technology would enable the use of a series of tooth positioners to produce the kinds of movements required for comprehensive orthodontic treatment. Technology has made this vision a reality. Using advanced computer technology, Align Technology produces Invisalign, a series of customized clear appliances, or aligners. Each aligner is worn sequentially by the patient to produce extensive tooth movements in both upper and lower arches.

### How many patients are being treated with Invisalign?

More than 1,000,000 patients worldwide have been treated with Invisalign. The number of Invisalign smiles grows daily.

### Has the FDA cleared Invisalign?

Invisalign aligners are classified as Class II medical devices by the FDA, and Align Technology, Inc. has held the necessary 510K clearance from the FDA since 1998 to be able to sell and market the Invisalign system.

### Do Invisalign aligners contain Bisphenol-A (BPA)?

No. Invisalign aligners and Vivera Retainers do not contain Bisphenol-A or phthalate plasticizers. These aligners and retainers are made with USP Class VI medical grade, high molecular weight, polyurethane resins. Tests have been conducted to determine the biocompatibility of these materials, and show that they are biocompatible and pass all applicable regulatory requirements and thresholds for human wear in the mouth. Of course, as with any medical device, you should consult with your health professional about your aligner or retainer treatment and any applicable risks of use.