

Why are crooked teeth a problem?

Teeth that are not aligned properly in your mouth create what dentists call "malocclusion." Left untreated, malocclusion can lead to periodontal disease and create abnormal amounts of stress on teeth and jaws, which leads to premature wear.

What type of malocclusion do you have?

Here are some potential issues:



CROWDING

- Buildup of plaque and tartar
- Harbors harmful periodontal bacteria
- Risk of periodontal disease, tooth, and bone loss



SPACING

- Food lodges between teeth
- Risk of sore, tender gums
- Risk of periodontal disease



DEEP BITE

- Over-erupted lower front teeth that can damage the palate
- Premature wear and chipping of the lower front teeth



CROSSBITE

- Premature tooth wear and risk of chipped teeth
- Abfraction — small notch in tooth at the gumline
- Periodontal disease, tooth, and bone loss



EXCESSIVE OVERJET

- Chipped or fractured front teeth
- Trauma to front teeth



EDGE-TO-EDGE BITE

- Risk of teeth chipping and breaking
- Jaw joint pain
- Shortened or worn down front teeth



OPEN BITE

- Abfraction — small notch in tooth at gumline
- Gum recession, loose teeth and bone loss
- Excessive, premature wear on back teeth

A Potential Health Risk

If left untreated, malocclusion can lead to periodontal disease and premature wear of teeth that can worsen over time and even result in tooth loss. Periodontal disease may also increase the risk for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (hardening of the arteries).⁴⁷