



Adult Care

LIBERTY cares about more than just teeth!

help tip: Your First Dental Visit

For your first dental visit, your dentist will need to record and review a thorough medical and dental history. This helps him/her learn about any health conditions, including allergies, medications that you are taking, and/or other health problems you might be experiencing.

The dental staff will take radiographs (x-rays) of your teeth, so the dentist can detect any problems and evaluate for any decay, bone loss, abscesses, impacted teeth or tooth alignment problems. X-rays taken may include: (1) bitewings, which are used to detect decay, evaluate the supporting bone level, find calculus (tartar) under the gums, and help detect periodontal pockets; (2) periapicals, which show the end of the tooth root, possible abscesses, calculus, and/or bone health not detected in the visual examination; (3) a full mouth series of 16-18 films (including bitewing and periapical x-rays) or, and (4) a panoramic x-ray that shows tooth position (especially wisdom teeth), sinus cavities, possible abscesses, and the TMJ. Your dentist may also have an intra-oral camera which will enable him/her to evaluate and photograph your mouth with up to 25 to 30 times magnification, thereby allowing the dentist to show you a magnified view of any decayed teeth, cracked fillings, and/or other significant problems that need to be discussed.

Your blood pressure may be taken to detect hypertension. An examination of your mouth and teeth will be conducted. The dentist may probe the gums to see if any periodontal pockets exist, as this can a sign of more severe periodontal conditions, if not treated early.

Also, the dentist will conduct an oral cancer screening, soft tissue evaluation, and temporomandibular joint (TMJ) exam. An inspection of all existing restorations (fillings and/or crowns) will be performed to look for defects that may lead to decay.

The dentist also may evaluate and recommend cosmetic alternatives that he/she may feel will improve your esthetic appearance and smile. Assessment of the occlusion for bite problems and an orthodontic screening are also part of this thorough examination.



fact:

Oral health requires regular visits to your dentist