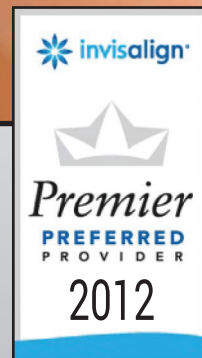




*The Ins and Outs  
of Invisalign*



# *The Ins and Outs of Invisalign*



***One of the main things that people don't like about metal braces is that they are so obvious.***

Each year many people find that they need braces to help treat the alignment of their teeth. The first thing that pops into most people's minds is, a mouth full of metal is not something they want! This is especially true for those millions of adults who would like to straighten their teeth but don't want to walk around with metal braces, calling attention to what they are doing. The good news is that there is a better option, called Invisalign®, and it's one that most people love.

## **Invisible Aligners**

The main thing that people don't like about metal braces is that they are so obvious. It is hard to not notice someone with a mouth full of metal, making evident to everyone that you are undergoing treatment. But with Invisalign®, the treatment essentially goes unnoticed because the aligners have been designed to be virtually invisible.

Invisalign® were first available in 1998 and have been popular ever since because they provide a more comfortable and private treatment option. With Invisalign®, people see the orthodontist for an exam and fitting. The treatment uses custom made aligners that are clear and fit right over the teeth, so they are relatively unnoticeable. The aligners are removable, as well, giving people the freedom to eat what they want and to continue brushing and flossing their teeth as they would normally.

Invisalign® creates a series of custom fit aligners for each patient based on the individual treatment plan as prescribed by the orthodontist. The patient wears each aligner for about two weeks, changing them as they progress through treatment.

Another reason that Invisalign® are so popular is because people find them so much more comfortable. With metal braces, people usually find that the wires and brackets can irritate and poke their mouths. However, the Invisalign® aligners are made of a comfortable plastic, so there is no poking. It is recommended that they be worn for 22 hours per day, giving you the option to take a short break each day to eat, drink, snack, brush and floss. With metal braces, there are no such breaks, as they are on permanently until removed by the doctor.



### *Getting Started*

*For those that have less than the perfect smile they would like to see when they look in the mirror, they no longer have to be ashamed and try to hide their mouth when they talk or smile. There are many adults who are seizing the opportunity to straighten their teeth, now that invisible braces are an option.*

*To get started, the best route to take is to schedule a consultation with an orthodontist to make sure that you are an ideal candidate for Invisalign®. Most people are, but the orthodontist is a specialist in treating tooth and jaw alignment and will ensure that the best treatment option is discussed.*

*A straighter, more confident smile is within reach. For some adults, Invisalign® takes as little as 12 months of treatment. So within a year, you can have a perfect smile. With Invisalign®, there is no reason to dodge getting your teeth fixed.*

*Today the treatment is virtually pain free, convenient, and discrete. It all comes down to when you are ready to get started!*

*Eric Turke*

### **Costs and Financing**

Patients who prefer the idea of Invisalign® over metal braces will find that there is a higher associated cost. The national average price for Invisalign® is around \$5,500. The price is higher due to the technology and process used to make the aligners. Yet most people find that the fee is balanced by the fact that they feel more confident and secure in their treatment decision when they are wearing the aligners. This is especially true for those that are in the workplace, as they don't want to draw attention to their treatment.

There are several ways that people can go about paying for their Invisalign® treatment, including checking to see if their insurance covers all or part of it, as many do, speaking with orthodontists about in-house financing options, and using the Flexible Spending Account that they may have with their employer.

Many employers set higher limits than you think on the amount of Flex Spending Dollars you can contribute each year, tax-free, from your salary to pay for health care expenses, like orthodontic treatment. Many employers allow \$2,500 or even \$5,000 of pre-tax earnings to be set aside in your flex plan.

When considering the higher costs associated with the Invisalign® option, people need to also take into account that they will not spend as much time visiting their orthodontist with this treatment.

[www.TurkeOrthodontics.com](http://www.TurkeOrthodontics.com)

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