

The Cost of Braces & What to Expect:  
**A Patient's Manual**





Braces and other orthodontic treatments are an investment, both financially and in yourself or a loved one. If you're a parent doing research on the best options for your child, or looking into orthodontics for yourself, you'll no doubt have a number of questions about your options, as well as what to expect before, during, and after your treatment.

Luckily for you, we're here to help. We understand that no two patients are exactly alike, and as such, no two patients will need the exact same treatment. At Molen Orthodontics we take time to work with each individual patient in order to develop an entirely customized approach to provide them with a healthy, natural-looking smile that will perfectly support their facial structures. Whether you opt to go with Damon braces, Invisalign clear aligners treatment, or other corrective appliances, we'll work with you to ensure you end up with a smile that absolutely must be Molen!

The first step for you is to gather the information you need to make an informed decision, which is why we've compiled this patient manual. In this document, you'll find the answers to frequently asked questions, as well as information to help you prepare for what to expect during your initial visit. When you're finished reading this guide, it's our hope that you'll feel confident about making the treatment decision that is best for you or your loved one.





## Who makes a good candidate for orthodontic treatment?

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At Molen Orthodontics we take pride in helping patients of all ages find their beautiful smile thanks to our unique approach and state-of-the-art techniques. It doesn't matter if you're 7 years old or 70, we will ensure you leave with a beautiful, healthy smile to last a lifetime.

The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that all children see an orthodontist around the age of 7, soon after their first few permanent adult teeth start coming in. It's important to keep in mind that starting the process early does not mean your child will need braces right away, or at all! The odds are that your child will not need treatment or braces at the young age of 7. However, it's important for us to examine your child's jaw and palate development, just to make sure that everything is happening as it should.

By seeing your child early we will also have more context as we monitor their future growth. With this additional context we can more accurately determine if an orthodontic issue is improving or worsening on its own. By monitoring your child's growth we can often recommend preventative treatment, like expanders or space maintainers, to hopefully minimize the development of more serious issues in adolescence or later in life.

Of course, if you're an adult, it's important to remember that it's never too late to start orthodontic treatment! We have options for patients of all ages!





## What should I expect during my first visit?

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During your first visit to Molen Orthodontics, your orthodontist will take the time to thoroughly examine your teeth, mouth, and jaw, as well as ask you questions about your main concerns and what your goals of orthodontic treatment are.

We will also take digital x-rays of your jaws and teeth with our state of the art equipment in order to determine exactly how they are positioned. This will allow us to recommend the best treatment option for your unique circumstances.

## What are my treatment options?

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At Molen Orthodontics, we're proud to provide our patients with the best treatment options available, including:

### **Invisalign & Invisalign Teen**

- Invisalign treatment uses replaceable aligners to straighten your teeth, foregoing the traditional wires and brackets that are used with metal braces. Because of this, they are known as an especially discreet treatment option. Invisalign combines a unique treatment plan from the doctors at Molen Orthodontics with state-of-the-art 3-D software to create sets of custom-made, nearly invisible aligners that will move your teeth into place in very precise increments.

## **Damon Braces & Damon Clear Braces**

- Damon braces and Damon Clear braces provide orthodontic treatment for those who would prefer not to constantly be reminding themselves to keep their Invisalign trays in. If you want the benefits of a non-removable treatment option that is also very subtle then Damon Clear braces may be a good match for you. Damon Clear braces also don't require the use of colored rubber ties to hold the wires in place which would defeat the purpose of having clear braces in the first place.
- Additionally our technologically advanced orthodontic wires exert a consistent, gentle pressure on your teeth, resulting in a treatment process that is not only comfortable, but also doesn't require frequent tightening. On the flipside, traditional braces frequently used in other offices require the use of colored rubber ties or active clips. These styles of braces bind the orthodontic wires in place, slowing treatment and potentially causing excess discomfort.
- If you do want the joy of choosing colors to decorate your braces each visit then the non-clear Damon braces are the best choice for you. The colored rubber ties will be placed underneath the wires to maximize the benefits of the low-friction Damon braces while still being visible to your friends and family.





## The Artist and the Paintbrush

- Damon braces and Damon Clear braces are powerful tools that can help create beautiful custom smiles, but it's important to remember that they are just tools. Your treatment will only be as good as the orthodontist providing it, and our doctors have the experience and training to ensure that your results meet our exacting standards of quality. We like to think of Damon and Damon Clear braces as the paintbrush, and our orthodontists as the artists— at the end of the day, the paintbrush doesn't create the beautiful painting, the artist wielding it does.

## How much will treatment cost and what are my payment options?

Because no two cases are exactly alike, there's no fixed price for treatment. For example, solving a more complex problem will always cost more than fixing a simple one. Think of it this way, building a more complex house on a challenging uneven lot of land will always cost more than building a simple house on a flat piece of dry land. Because of this, we recommend you visit us here at Molen Orthodontics for a FREE consultation and a precise quote based on your unique circumstances, issues, and goals.

At Molen, we understand that cost can be an important factor for patients when deciding whether or not treatment is right for them. We never want cost to stand in the way of a patient and their oral health, which is why we're 100% committed to working with you to find a financing option that works within your budget. We offer flexible payment plans and interest-free financing so you can have the custom-designed smile you've always wanted.



**Tip for Extra Savings:** *If your insurance company won't let you claim your entire cost up front, there are other options. For example, extra savings can be had if you and your partner have separate benefit plans, because you may be able to coordinate your benefits. The claim for orthodontics would be submitted to one plan first (generally the one belonging to the partner whose birthday comes first in the calendar year), with the remainder to be submitted to the other partner's plan. Every plan's rules are unique though so we'll be happy to review yours with you at your initial consultation.*





**Tip for Extra Savings:** See if you're eligible for a Health Savings Account. HSAs allow you to save and spend before-tax dollars on healthcare. Using before-tax money instead of after-tax money can create significant savings. Also be sure to hang on to your receipts for treatment! You may be able to submit as a health expense whatever is not covered by your dental insurance when you file your income taxes.

## **Working With Your Insurance Provider**

At Molen, we are happy to work with your insurance provider in order to maximize your coverage. Before you begin treatment, we recommend that you check to see if your employee benefit plan covers orthodontic treatment for you or your child. Every insurance plan is different though, so please feel free to contact us with any insurance questions you may have.

## **Avoid more costly treatment in the long run**

If you're looking into treatment for your child, it's important that you schedule an appointment for a consultation as early as possible—usually around age 7. This will allow the team here at Molen Orthodontics to not only spot current problems, but also predict any potential future problems thereby preventing them from even having a chance to develop. As the old saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and at Molen, we believe that. When necessary, early intervention can guide proper development, potentially preventing the need for more expensive, complicated, and lengthy procedures down the road.





## The Molen Difference

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At Molen Orthodontics, we put family first, and we are always continuing our education in order to provide you with the best service possible. Our facilities feature top-of-the-line equipment that help to ensure you receive the best treatment possible. Our goal is not only to give you a great smile, but to give you a smile that looks natural and perfectly complements your facial structures. We also pay attention to every detail, even going so far as to offer a lifetime retainer guarantee after your treatment is complete.

### Flexible Hours

Molen Orthodontics offers flexible hours so you can get in to see us at your convenience. This means you'll spend less time away from work, and your child will have to spend less time away from school! Check the Molen Orthodontics location nearest you for more details.

### Fun and Games

To make your appointments more enjoyable, Molen offers plenty of fun for our patients, including:

- Arcade games
- Massage chairs (at select locations)
- Contests
- Prizes
- Patient reward programs
- And more!





*Today, people of all ages are making the important decision to invest in their teeth and overall oral health. Now that you know a little more about Molen Orthodontics and the services we offer, it's time to take the next step and visit our offices!*

*To learn more about which treatment option is right for you...*

SCHEDULE A **FREE** CONSULTATION TODAY >

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