



**Prentice**  
Orthodontics

# 5 Things You Need to Know Before Choosing an Orthodontist

Quality orthodontic care can enhance your smile, and prevent painful conditions and costly procedures later on. However, finding the right orthodontist for your needs requires understanding some basics about orthodonture.

Here are the five most important things to know which will significantly improve your treatment experience and comfort level with orthodontics.



## 1 The Difference Between a Dentist and an Orthodontist

An orthodontist has the same medical training as a dentist, in addition to two to three years of specialized training in orthodontics. A general dentist may perform some types of orthodontic treatments, but most of their expertise is in restorative dentistry like cleanings, crowns, and fillings.

Orthodontists focus solely on correcting patients' bite and straightening teeth. Dentists that are orthodontist will identify their specialty on their logo, company listing, and business card. They may also display certifications like their membership with orthodontist-only organizations like the American Association of Orthodontics or the American Board of Orthodontics.

## 2 Patients Needing Early Interceptive Treatment

Early interceptive treatment— treating orthodontic conditions in children such as over or underbite, crowded teeth, and narrow jaw size— can alleviate discomfort and prevent serious health issues later on.

If your child's dentist or pediatrician recommends an orthodontic evaluation, make sure their orthodontist has experience with this kind of treatment. About 50% of orthodontists won't treat children without all of their adult teeth, so double-check that they have experience in early interceptive care.

### 3 Experience with Invisalign™

Unlike metal braces that your orthodontist adjusts each visit, the Invisalign™ system uses clear, removable aligners to adjust tooth and bite positioning. Every two weeks, the patient receives a new set of aligners that gradually move teeth over time.

Though most orthodontists can prescribe Invisalign™, few will recommend the system to patients because their training is mainly in wire braces. Invisalign™'s success depends on the orthodontist's understanding of the treatment program. If you're interested in Invisalign™, find an orthodontist with proven experience in prescribing the system to ensure you receive the best treatment outcome.

### 5 Payment Plans and Interest Fees

Don't let cost deter you from getting the smile you and your children deserve. Many orthodontists have affordable payment plans to help you manage the expense of braces. Often, your orthodontist will charge a comprehensive fee that covers appointments, appliances, x-rays, photos, post-treatment retainers, and retainer checks.

Before you sign any paperwork, however, make sure you fully understand each line item in your total bill. Ask about any additional costs or fees you could be responsible for, and make sure they list those items on your bill as well.

Lastly, make sure you understand any interest rates associated with your payment plan. Some orthodontists offer in-house financing, or third-party financing, both of which have their own considerations as far as payment schedule, interest, and total cost at the end of treatment.

### 4 Orthodontic Equipment and Technology

Orthodontic technology is continually improving, meaning faster treatment times and increased patient comfort. Gone are the days of hiding your braces from the world. Today's options include smaller, clear, and even ceramic braces. Finding an orthodontist that uses cutting-edge equipment and technology ensures you look your best and receiving the best care possible.



## Prentice Orthodontics

We're here to answer your questions and guide you through the world of orthodontics. If you're ready to get started, we offer a **FREE EXAM and CONSULTATION** (\$350 value). Call us at (303) 468-7722 to book an appointment.

Our office is welcoming, comfortable, and uses cutting-edge orthodontic technology. [Contact us](#) today to gain better overall health and self-esteem through quality orthodontic care.