



# Extraction

## What it is:

An extraction is the removal of a tooth or multiple teeth.

## Why you need one:

If you have a tooth that is impacted or badly damaged from trauma or decay, it may need to be removed to prevent the spread of infection. You may also need a tooth removed if your mouth is too crowded, or due to periodontal (gum) disease.

## How it works:

### Step 1

Before the tooth is removed, you will receive a topical anesthetic and an injection of a local anesthetic. If you're having multiple teeth pulled or the tooth is impacted (below the gums), you may receive a general anesthetic so you'll sleep through the procedure.

### Step 2

If the tooth is impacted, your dentist will cut away the gum, then grasp the tooth with forceps to loosen and remove it.

### Step 3

After the tooth has been removed, a blood clot will likely form in the hole, which is normal and part of the healing process. Your dentist will pack gauze into the hole to help stop the bleeding. He or she may also place a few self-dissolving stitches to help your gums heal.

### Step 4

Your dentist may recommend over-the-counter pain medications or prescribe medications to help with any discomfort after the procedure. The full healing process will take four to eight weeks, but any discomfort typically goes away after the first few days.



Impacted tooth



Tooth removal



Blood clot formed



If you have any questions about what your dental plan covers, talk with your dentist or visit [DeltaDentalMA.com](https://www.DeltaDentalMA.com) and sign in to view your benefits information.