

## Need Braces? Choose The Braces That Are Right For You





Anyone suffering from any form of serious malocclusion (teeth misalignment), could do well to invest in the corrective treatment that only modern braces can provide. That said, **there are so many types of braces available today** – a veritable "embarrassment of riches," that the real trouble often is choosing which one to use.



Whether you have overbite, underbite, teeth crowding, teeth drifting, or another problem may influence which braces are right for you. Your age, the condition of your mouth, and your personal preferences will also be factors. While talking to your orthodontist about these issues is key, you also do well to become informed about your basic options upfront – including these.



#### Traditional Metal Braces

Traditional metal braces are constructed of stainless steel or silver and made up of brackets and archwires. The wires are used to hold the brackets in position on each tooth and to gradually pull teeth in the desired direction. Nickel-titanium is often also added to parts of these braces to give them added **strength and durability.** 



This is the least expensive option in many cases, but many don't like the look of metal braces. Plus, there is the possibility of tooth surfaces being stained. For these reasons, many are willing to consider the other options listed below.

#### Self-ligating Braces

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Also known after their inventor as "Damon" braces, self-ligating braces have no need (as do traditional wire braces) of special bands to hold the archwires in place. Instead, the brackets are slotted so

that they hold the wires tight themselves. This means there is **less friction and less risk of teeth being stained** or of cheeks being scraped or pinched.

The wires are able to move freely back and forth as needed, creating higher comfort levels for patients. Plus, overall treatment time tends to be shorter, and the number of dental visits needed to readjust the braces are fewer.

## Ceramic Braces

The big benefit with ceramic braces is that the clear coloration of the brackets makes them less noticeable.

Also, ceramic won't cause tooth staining. Ceramic braces are a bit more fragile than metal braces and cost a little more, but many prefer them for cosmetic reasons.

## **Invisalign Braces**

One of the most recent innovations in tooth realignment is the Invisalign "invisible" braces system. Also known as progressive braces, this system uses a series of clear plastic removable "trays" that you wear during each successive phase of treatment.





For milder malocclusion problems or for those who want to hide the fact they are wearing braces from onlookers, Invisalign is a great option.

#### **Lingual Braces**

Another way to make braces invisible is to get lingual braces, which are **attached to the backside of your teeth** instead of the front where everyone can see. The contact of this type of braces with the tongue may be uncomfortable to some, so you should talk long and hard with your orthodontist before choosing lingual braces.



#### Gold Braces

Another less common type of braces are those made of gold. Gold costs more, but it is very fashionable. Plus, **some people may** choose gold because they are allergic to other metals like steel or nickel.

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#### Smart Braces

The latest option – not yet available everywhere, is smart braces. A **microchip in the brackets controls force and adjustments.** This shortens the treatment and reduces possible pain, but it also costs more.

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## Meet Dr. Marielle Beauchamp

Dr. Beauchamp was born in Tallahassee and raised in the small town of Cairo, Georgia. After attending Mercer University and The Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University, she became a member of the American Dental Association, the American Association of Orthodontists, and a diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics.

Dr. Beauchamp believes that everyone deserves a beautiful smile and that the orthodontist's office should be fun! She and her team prioritize a familyfriendly atmosphere where patients young and not-soyoung feel welcome.





# Schedule your consultation with Dr. Beauchamp today!

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