



## Why X-rays are x-tra handy

Believe it or not, your mouth has areas you can't normally see. Luckily, dentists have X-rays that let them look past the surfaces of your teeth and gums. X-ray images show things like cavities and adult teeth that haven't come in yet. Your dentist might take an X-ray during your next appointment to check if your teeth and gums are healthy.

See the next page for an example of how X-rays reveal hidden cavities.





## Getting an X-ray is easy

- 1 Your dentist or hygienist will place a special type of apron on you while you relax in the dentist chair or stand up behind the X-ray machine.
- 2 They may ask you to bite down on a piece of plastic that helps them see certain parts of your mouth.
- 3 After they get the X-ray machine in the right position, they'll ask you to hold still as they step out of the room really quickly to take the image.
- 4 When they come back, the X-ray is done!

Below you can see how a healthy-looking tooth might be hiding a cavity.

