

## The Importance of Dental X-rays

Since many diseases of the teeth and surrounding tissues cannot be seen when your dentist examines your mouth, an X-ray can help reveal:

- small areas of decay between the teeth or existing fillings;
- infections in the bone;
- gum disease;
- abscesses or cysts;
- developmental abnormalities;
- some types of tumors.

Finding and treating dental problems early can save time, money and unnecessary discomfort. X-rays can help your dentist detect problems in your mouth that otherwise would not be seen.

Take a look at the tooth below. Would you have guessed that below that filling there would exist such a large area of decay? The x-ray below was taken on the same tooth on the same day. You can clearly see the area of decay, it is the dark spot to the lower right side of the tooth. This is why dental x-rays are so important!

Without them, areas of concern like this might not be found until they cause pain, possible loss of the tooth, and much larger financial cost of treatment.

