

ENAMEL IS THE BODY ARMOUR OF TEETH

Enamel is a hard and white substance that covers the teeth. It protects the more fragile underlying parts of the teeth including the dentine and the pulp. Dental enamel is the hardest substance in the human body and is mostly composed of hydroxyapatite (crystalline calcium phosphate). It is produced by cells called ameloblasts.

A tooth is a living tissue, supplied by the nerves and blood vessels. The visible area of the tooth, called the crown, is covered with enamel, which is the hardest substance in the body. Nerves and blood vessels reach the center of the tooth through the root. Each tooth has one or more roots, implanted into the jawbone which is linked with the bone through the periodontal ligament.

Humans develop two sets of teeth: primary teeth (deciduous, milk or baby teeth) and permanent teeth (adult teeth). The 20 deciduous teeth appear between the age of 6 months and the age of 30 months. The eruption of permanent teeth, 32 in total, is more sprawling. It starts from the age 6 years and ends at 12 years. The last four molars, the so-called wisdom teeth, may either remain impacted, or appear in early adulthood.

Unlike sharks, which have numerous sets of teeth, we humans only have 1 adult set. So we need to look after them.

The truth, no tooth fairies.



**Victoria Dental
Centre**