

## DOES SMOKING AFFECT THE HEALTH OF YOUR TEETH?



Most of us know that smoking is bad for our health, but did you know that smoking is also a major contributor to many dental problems? Cigarettes aren't the only products to blame. All forms of tobacco, including cigars, smokeless tobacco and hookah water pipes pose dental health concerns.

Tobacco use greatly increases the risk of lip and oral cancer, a disease that progresses rapidly and can be deadly if not diagnosed and treated early.

It also increases the risk of gum disease by damaging gum tissue and causes receding gums, leaving the roots of the teeth exposed. This could increase the risk of tooth decay and cause hot/cold sensitivity as well as gum/bone disease, the major cause of losing teeth.

Can slow down healing after oral surgery procedures, such as having a tooth extracted.

Does cause bad breath.

Does cause stains on teeth that can't be removed with regular brushing.

Can cause a build up of tartar, which may require more frequent dental cleaning.

Smoking AND alcohol dramatically increase incidence of lip and mouth cancers.

Your dentist will check to catch these diseases early.

**The truth, no tooth fairies.**

