



Radiographs

Please do not be alarmed when we do not offer you a lead apron as protection when we take routine x-rays at the practice. The very small amount of radiation involved with taking dental x-rays means that it is not necessary for you to wear a lead apron. There is a very small risk involved with any exposure to radiation, but technological advances in the x-ray equipment used means that the actual risk is minimal. We use direct and indirect digital systems in the practice. To help you understand the level or risk involved, we have compared the amount of radiation you will receive when having dental and medical x-rays with natural background radiation.

X-ray	Additional background radiation
Bitewings (x2), Periapicals, Intraoral radiographs	8 hours
Panoramic, extraoral radiographs	28 hours

Another comparison would be travelling by air: a flight to Spain and back would expose you to the same radiation as two bite-wing x-rays.

X-rays are taken to help us identify any potential problems that you might have, such as decay. We can then use the x-rays to plan any treatment you might require.

It is helpful for us to know if you are, or think you may be pregnant. Evidence shows that there is no risk to the baby or the mother, so we will be able to take routine dental x-rays.