

TOOTH TIPS

FOR MUMS-TO-BE



CLEAN WELL

- Brush 2x a day, morning AND last thing at night, using fluoride toothpaste
- Brush all tooth surfaces—outside, top and inside
- Use a soft bristled toothbrush
- Just spit—don't rinse!
- Floss your teeth once a day before bed time

Brush for healthy teeth and gums

FLUORIDE

Makes teeth stronger and fixes early stages of decay



EAT WELL

- Eat nutritious food every day, for example vegetables, fruit, grains, legumes and lean meats
- Eat foods high in calcium, such as dairy or soy products e.g. low fat milk, yoghurt and cheese
- It's best to avoid eating sugary foods or drinks, but if you do, eat only occasionally and at main mealtimes with other tooth-friendly foods









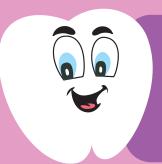
DRINK WELL

- Choose water or low-fat plain milk (green, light-blue or yellow top)
- Limit your intake of sugary and acidic drinks e.g. soft drinks (including diet varieties), sports/energy drinks, juice and flavoured milk.





Tap water and plain milk are recommended



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YOUR TEETH AND GUMS

Pregnancy hormones cause changes in the mouth that may result in gum disease. Gum disease occurs when the gums become inflamed, normally caused by a build-up of plaque (bacteria).

Common signs of gum disease include:

- Bleeding gums
- Red gums (instead of pink)
- Swollen gums
- Bad breath

Continuing to brush your teeth is important if you think you have gum disease talk to your dentist for advice and treatment options. Advanced gum disease may result in a premature and/or low birth weight baby.

DENTAL CHECK-UP

- It is safe to have dental care when you are pregnant
- Be sure to have a dental check-up before and during your pregnancy

PROTECT YOUR BABY





Breastfeed to prevent dental decay

MORNING SICKNESS

- Try small, frequent meals
- Include a wide variety of nutritious foods throughout the day

Keep brushing two times a day

- Avoid brushing your teeth straight after vomiting to prevent damage to the surface of your teeth
- To neutralise acid, add 1 teaspoon of baking soda to a cup of water and use as a rinse after vomiting



Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora

www.cdhb.health.nz/health-services/community-dental-service/