

## **TEETH WHITENING AT-HOME**

- Total treatment time is usually 2 - 3 weeks. Some cases may take longer, especially if treatment is interrupted.
- Make sure you brush and floss thoroughly prior to each treatment.
- The bleaching gel can work better if it is in contact with the tooth rather than plaque buildup.
- Mild sensitivity to cold liquids or air may occur. This usually passes a few days after treatment is completed.
- If the sensitivity is severe or persists, discontinue using the gel and contact our office.

## **THE PROCEDURE**

- Have your trays dry. Then put a teardrop-sized drop of bleaching gel into each tooth well.
- Put your trays in and push along the gum line (not on the teeth) to remove any gel that may be on your gums.
- If you experience any gum irritation, let us know. Your custom tray may need to be adjusted.
  - ◆ 35% Bleaching Solution- Wear trays for 1/2 hour or less if sensitivity occurs.
  - ◆ 15% Bleaching Solution- Wear trays at least 1 1/2 hours or less if sensitivity occurs. If you use the 15% bleach you can wear them while you sleep, this is the preferred method since you swallow less and create less saliva.
- You cannot eat or drink while wearing the trays.
- When you remove your trays, be ready to brush your teeth. Then cleanse the trays with cold water and a toothbrush. Hot water could melt your trays and they will not fit as well.
- Store your trays in the case but make sure the trays fit in the case well so that when the case is closed the trays do not become twisted or lose their shape.

## **POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

- Whitening works best on yellow stained teeth. Gray teeth are more difficult to whiten, or may not respond to treatment. Such cases may require porcelain veneers to achieve the desired result.
- Long term results vary from patient to patient. This can depend on many factors including habits such as coffee, tea, wine, or cola consumption and smoking.
- Keep any gel that you have left over for touch-ups. This could be once a month or once every six months. Depending on your habits (smoking, coffee, etc). Touch-ups should require only wearing the trays once or twice to bring back the brightness.