

Taking a Predictable Bite: Analog & Digital Guidelines

A quick-reference guide for our referring doctors on capturing accurate occlusal records — so every case arrives at the lab ready to mount, design, and deliver right the first time.

A great restoration starts with a great bite record. The tips below cover the most common situations we see — no posterior stop, multi-unit cases, temporaries, and difficult occlusions — for both analog impressions and digital scans.

1 Pre-Op & Temporary Records

These records are how we preserve the patient's original — or corrected — occlusion. Without them, we're designing blind.

PRE-OP IMPRESSION / SCAN

- Capture before any prep is started, whenever possible
- Include full arch or at minimum the arch plus opposing arch and bite
- Send even for single units — this is our best reference for anatomy and contacts

TEMPORARY IMPRESSION / SCAN

- Only send once occlusion on the temporary has been checked and adjusted
- Confirm even, stable contacts in MIP before capturing
- Include a bite registration or scan with the temp seated — this becomes our final blueprint

2 Multi-Unit Cases (3+ Units)

Any case restoring three or more units — bridge, multiple crowns, or a combination — needs a full arch record.

ANALOG

- Full arch impression of the arch being restored
- Full arch impression of the opposing arch
- Full arch bite registration — not a segmental or anterior-only bite

DIGITAL

- Full arch scan of both the prepped and opposing arches
- Full arch bite scan capturing both sides in one continuous relationship
- Double-check the scan for overlapping or "floating" data before submitting

3 Posterior Restorations With No Posterior Stop

When there's no existing posterior contact to stabilize the bite, the patient can easily shift or over-close — leading to a bite record that doesn't reflect true occlusion.

ANALOG

- Use a rigid bite registration material (PVS bite material, not wax alone)
- Guide the patient gently into centric relation or maximum intercuspation before the material sets
- Trim window through material at existing contacts so the models seat fully without rocking
- An additional bite scan or impression of the final adjusted temporary in the mouth helps us confirm and accurately reproduce the bite you've finalized clinically

DIGITAL

- Scan the bite in small segments (buccal scans left, right, and anterior) rather than one sweeping capture
- Have the patient close slowly and hold — avoid scanning mid-movement
- Verify the software's virtual articulation looks stable before finalizing the case
- An additional bite scan or impression of the final adjusted temporary in the mouth helps us confirm and accurately reproduce the bite you've finalized clinically

 **When a bite is especially difficult** — unstable occlusion, missing posterior support, or a bite that's hard to reproduce — a **photograph of the bite in CR, CO, or MIP** along with a **pre-op scan or scan of the adjusted temporary** are most valuable to us at Precision Dental Arts. Together they let our technicians confirm the relationship your bite record is capturing, catch discrepancies before they become a remake.