CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS
SPACING
GENERAL TREATMENT PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Tongue thrust

If there is anterior spacing caused by tongue thrust, aligners may serve as a block for the tongue during treatment, but the patient must also change their habit to avoid relapse after treatment is complete. A robust retention protocol will be essential to keep teeth in their place.

Tooth size discrepancy

If there is tooth size discrepancy (teeth too small for the size of the arch), restorative options such as veneers might be suggested. If there are missing teeth, Invisalign treatment options can include pontics when there is sufficient space so that the patient’s appearance can be improved during treatment. In treatments where there is spacing on one arch caused by tooth size discrepancy and crowding on the other, IPR in the arch with crowding may be required.

Patient’s profile

The patient’s profile must be considered when treatment planning for cases. Simply closing all space by retracting the teeth may have a detrimental effect on an already flat profile. Sometimes a better alternative is to maintain the existing profile and reallocate space (e.g. leave residual spacing distal to the second premolars).
INVISALIGN SPECIFICS

Default protocols for space closure

**On spacing treatments with flared teeth**, the spaces will be closed by retroclining (via lingual crown tipping movements) the anterior teeth; note that this will create relative extrusion and increase the overbite unless the teeth are intruded at the same time. This can be very helpful to address spacing/open bite due to tongue thrust or other habits.

**On spacing treatments with more upright teeth**, retraction with bodily movement will be employed to maintain the current anterior teeth inclination. To ensure that the Power Ridge feature is applied to the ClinCheck treatment plan, you may want to consider requesting additional lingual root torque.

Virtual C-Chain

Consider requesting Virtual C-Chain overcorrection at the end of treatment to ensure full space closure. Using Virtual C-Chain requires careful monitoring to ensure the contacts don’t get so tight that the teeth start crowding. These overcorrection stages are optional.

For more information and treatment planning help

Learn more from your peers who are successfully treating patients with both mild and severe spacing: [https://learn.invisalign.com/spacing#tips](https://learn.invisalign.com/spacing#tips)