



# WESTCOAST BRACE & LIMB

## High Realism Synthetic Skin Prosthetics



Restoring Bodies, Rebuilding Lives  
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# High Realism Synthetic Skin Prosthetics



**A** prosthetic replacement of a body part can do more than just mimic natural movement. Our bodies are more than action. Form and function can exist in a comprehensive design that addresses the psychological needs of the user. Welcome to the world of Synthetic Skin Prosthetics.

Human skin is a complex organ comprised of multiple layers, each unique in composition, appearance, and function. Just like the real thing, Westcoast Brace & Limb's Synthetic Skin Prosthetics are crafted using several layers of silicone, each unique in color composition and texture. These prosthetic devices not only mirror the function of the human anatomy—they feel and look like the real thing.

# Each Client Is Unique...

just like each silicone device we fabricate.



We value the partnerships that we possess with our clients. We listen to our clients' goals and, together, we design prosthetic devices that meet the needs of the users. Our silicone prostheses are fabricated 100% on-site by our Anaplastologist, in conjunction with an ABC Certified Prosthetist. Clients are active participants in the fabrication process. Client satisfaction is our priority.

## Case Management



Each client is assigned a Westcoast Brace & Limb Case Manager, who:

- Handles insurance authorization
- Assists in payment arrangements
- Advocates for the client
- Arranges appointments and serves as a key contact for the client

For more information, contact:

Jennifer Robinson  
Westcoast Brace & Limb Case Manager  
(813) 985-5000 ext 204  
[jennifer.robinson@wcbl.com](mailto:jennifer.robinson@wcbl.com)

# Immediately After Surgery

Early prosthetic intervention yields many benefits. Even if the surgery site is not healed, an early prosthetic intervention:

- Allows for our Case Manager to obtain insurance authorization or alternative funding
- Allows the client to become more familiar with options, the process, and the practitioner
- Allows us to design a plan of care

Post-surgery, many clients experience a significant amount of swelling in the remaining limb/digit. This is referred to as post-surgical edema. It is important to reduce swelling, to ensure that the prosthesis will fit correctly. We utilize compression therapies, such as Coban bandages and custom diagnostic prostheses, which ensure that swelling is reduced prior to beginning the custom definitive prosthesis.



An extremely high level of realism is a medical necessity for clients who could otherwise feel symptoms of depression and anxiety in social interactions.

The emotional toll of amputation can be devastating. All of Westcoast Brace & Limb's Synthetic Skin Prosthetics serve another vital role—the realism of the device restores the appearance of the user's anatomy.

In our experience, an individual is more likely to succeed in prosthetic rehabilitation if aesthetics are addressed in the prosthetic design process. When an individual is able to emotionally accept the prosthesis, he or she is more likely to use the prosthesis and attempt to resume previous activities.



# Synthetic Skin Prosthetics

## Restore Everyday Function



Basic skills, such as reaching for a glass, holding a pencil, and typing on a keyboard, can become daunting after a finger amputation. Synthetic Skin Prosthetics restore the anatomical function and enable users to resume everyday living activities.


# The active function of each type of Synthetic Skin Prosthesis is unique.

Westcoast Brace & Limb's Synthetic Skin Prosthetics include devices that replace **fingers, hands, full arms, toes, feet, legs, and facial anatomy.**

Silicone is soft against the skin and vibrations travel gently through it, allowing the user to sense where the prosthesis is in space. This is referred to as proprioception.

## Our silicone is:


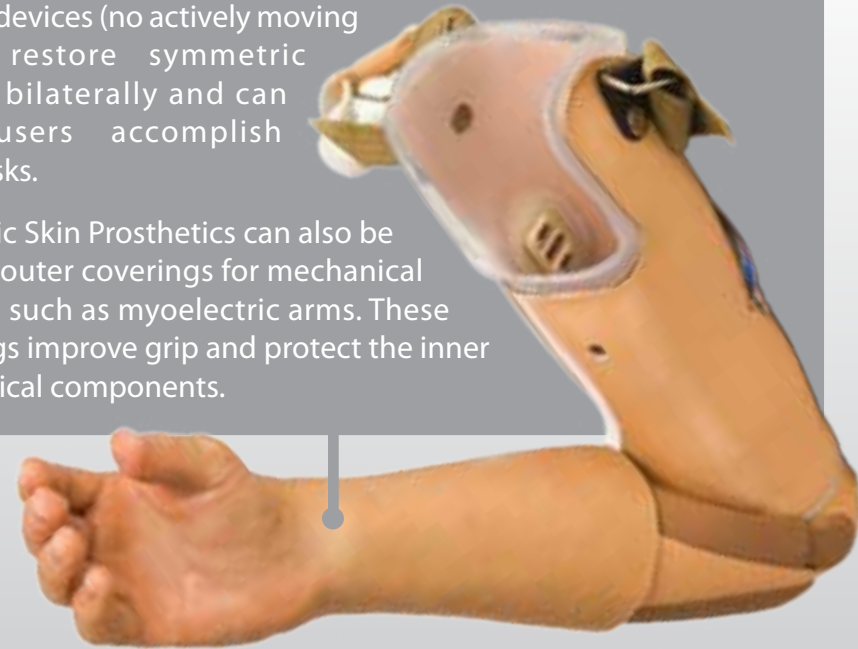
- Medical grade & hypoallergenic
- Stain proof
- Flame resistant
- Life-like in texture, which allows for better grip
- Reparable
- Comfortable—it conforms to the user



After toe amputation, the remaining toes may migrate. A prosthetic toe fills the void of the amputated digit, helping to maintain the position of the remaining toes. The prosthesis also improves gait.

Synthetic Skin Prosthetics that serve as passive devices (no actively moving parts) restore symmetric weight bilaterally and can help users accomplish basic tasks.

Synthetic Skin Prosthetics can also be used as outer coverings for mechanical devices, such as myoelectric arms. These coverings improve grip and protect the inner mechanical components.




A prosthetic nose helps protect delicate mucus membranes and prevents particles from entering the body.

# Customized Synthetic Skin

Each Synthetic Skin Prosthesis is custom sculpted to match the user. The first step in fabricating a prosthesis is for our Anaplastologist to obtain a 'cast', or 'impression' of the client's unaffected side, as well as the affected residual limb, digit, or facial anatomy. If both sides (right and left) are affected, details from a compatible 'donor' can be utilized. The sculpture includes an extremely high level of detail—from skin pores and wrinkles, to fingerprints.



Once the sculpture is completed, the Anaplastologist hand-colors the silicone prosthesis. To ensure the most accurate match and the highest level of realism, we custom paint our prostheses during in-person coloring sessions with the client. During these coloring sessions, clients are encouraged to provide feedback and to be part of the design team.



For clients living out-of-state, long-distance coloring based on photographs is available. Typically, in-person coloring sessions result in more accurate matches, higher quality control, and less 'wait time' for the client.

# Options For Conventional Lower Extremity Prosthetic Skins



Realistic protective skins can be applied over conventional lower extremity prosthetics using silicone-like materials. The skin is applied in layers and provides durable realism.

# FAQ

## Q: What is anaplastology?

**A:** This is where form meets function. Anaplastology is a branch of medicine dealing with the prosthetic rehabilitation of an absent or atypical portion of the face or body.

## Q: What is a Synthetic Skin Prosthesis?

**A:** A Synthetic Skin Prosthesis is a highly realistic custom silicone device that provides the user with passive and active anatomical function.

## Q: Which medical professionals are involved in the fabrication of a Synthetic Skin Prosthesis?

**A:** Westcoast Brace & Limb utilizes a strong and cohesive team, including:

- An Anaplastologist, who designs, fabricates, and fits the prosthesis to the client
- A Certified Prosthetist, who oversees all clinical cases
- An Amputee Case Manager, who manages insurance submissions, alternative funding requests, and scheduling.

## Q: How can a consultation be initiated?

**A:** Contact **Jennifer Robinson**, *Case Manager*, at **(813) 985-5000** extension 204.

## Q: Can the fingers move on a Synthetic Skin Prosthesis?

**A:** Depending on the client's anatomy and the type of prosthesis being fabricated, inner armature wire can be incorporated into an upper extremity silicone prosthesis. This allows the client to position fingers and enhances active function. Some prosthetics are actually gloves that encompass conventional or externally powered prosthetics. In such a case, as the inner prosthetic hand component moves, the external silicone glove moves with it, realistically.

## Q: When is a Synthetic Skin Prosthesis worn?

**A:** A prosthesis can be worn during daily activities. A prosthesis is removed during showering and it is not worn during sleep. It is important to keep a prosthesis in a safe place, away from pets and children, when it is not in use. A 'back up' prosthesis is recommended for more rigorous activities.

## Q: How is a Synthetic Skin Prosthesis suspended?

**A:** Prosthetic suspension refers to how the prosthesis is held onto the affected body part. The prosthetic suspension depends on the type of prosthesis and the client's anatomy. In the case of a finger, the Synthetic Skin Prosthesis is typically suspended via suction. For clients who present with an extremely short residual digit (the portion of the finger remaining after amputation), adhesives may be used.

## Q: Can the color of the prosthesis be adjusted?

**A:** We can adjust the color of a Synthetic Skin Prosthesis post-delivery, to accommodate a natural tan. The 'tan' is applied by us in our office and gradually fades in several weeks.

## Q: Can artificial nails be painted using nail polish?

**A:** Yes. However, it is important to use acetone-free polish remover.

## Q: How long does the fabrication process take?

**A:** Depending on post-surgical swelling and the type of device being fabricated, the timeframe for fabrication typically ranges from two to four weeks.

## Q: How long does a Synthetic Skin Prosthesis last?

**A:** The life of the prosthesis depends on the user's daily habits and the type of prosthesis fabricated. Typically, replacement should be considered every one to four years. Careful maintenance will prolong the life of the prosthesis. It is also important for the client to contact the Anaplastologist as soon as damage is observed.

## Q: Is a Synthetic Skin Prosthesis covered under warranty?

**A:** Each silicone prosthesis fabricated by Westcoast Brace & Limb is covered under a limited six month warranty. Repairs or non-routine office visits after this period may be subject to an hourly charge.

## Q: What medical documentation is needed?

**A:** A physician prescription is required for any initial prosthesis, and is usually required for all replacement prosthetic devices. Physician medical records provide information regarding a client's medical history, amputation circumstances, and medical necessity for prosthetic care. We provide physicians with a detailed prescription form, so that adequate information is recorded. Prescriptions may be faxed to **Jennifer Robinson**, *Case Manager*, at **(813) 985-4499**.

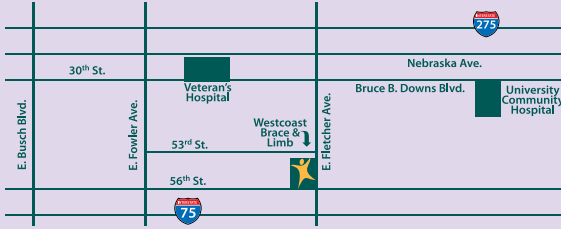
## Q: Do insurance companies provide coverage for Synthetic Skin Prosthetics?

**A:** Navigating the world of insurance coverage can be difficult. However, many commercial and workers' compensation carriers allow for coverage for custom silicone prosthetic devices. Our Amputee Case Manager works closely with each client to submit for insurance pre-authorization. If the client does not have insurance coverage, our Amputee Case Manager will assist the client in applying for alternative funding. Evaluation is necessary in order to accurately determine the cost of the proposed prosthesis.

## Q: How expensive is a silicone prosthesis?

**A:** The cost of the prosthesis varies, depending on the level of realism and the type of device being fabricated.

## Corporate Office | North Tampa



Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

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## Brandon



Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

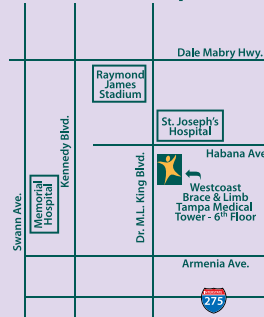
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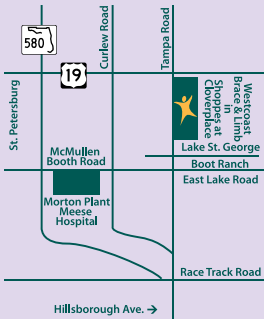
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