

Crown

restoring and protecting teeth

A crown is a custom made hollow shell or 'cap' used to completely cover a tooth. They can be made from gold, porcelain fused to a metal base or more commonly these days, full porcelain.

Crowns are used for many purposes, most commonly to protect a weakened tooth from breaking.

A crown can be used to restore the shape and size of the tooth as well as restore the colour to match other teeth.

When is a Crown recommended?

Crowns are only used when a regular filling material is no longer suitable, such as on

- Heavily filled tooth
- Previous Root Canal Treatment
- Cracked tooth
- Tooth prone to chipping, breaking
- Serious risk of splitting
- Lengthen short or worn teeth
- To improve bite or function of your teeth
- To improve the appearance of teeth – colour or alignment

Thinking of Whitening Your Teeth?

If you are considering whitening your teeth it is essential that you inform the dentist as soon as possible since the crown colour will be permanent and will not lighten along with the natural teeth during the whitening process.



Porcelain
fused to metal



Gold

The Steps to Making a Crown

1. If there is a filling on the tooth, it may have to be replaced to ensure it is sound and free of decay. If there is a part of the tooth missing, it may also need to be repaired.
2. The tooth is prepared by the dentist. It is reduced on all sides including the biting surface.
3. A very accurate impression of the prepared tooth is taken. This impression is sent to our technician to be used to make the crown.
4. To protect your tooth for the next 2 weeks, the dentist will make and lightly cement on a temporary, plastic crown. It can be brushed and flossed around gently.

TIP Avoid eating sticky foods. It is only made to last for a few weeks so having the permanent crown cemented on as soon as possible is important.
5. When the final crown is made, we remove the temporary crown and try it on. Only when we are happy with the fit, shape and colour will it be cemented on.

You can expect a crown to last up to 20 years or more with excellent home care and regular examinations and professional cleaning.

Like most dental restorations, having healthy gums before and after treatment ensures the best outcome possible. We encourage all patients to have a clean prior to having the crown started for best results.