

A dental crown, also referred to as a dental restoration, typically covers the entire exposed portion of the tooth and replaces all its enamel.

## WHY DO SOME TEETH NEED DENTAL CROWNS?

Tooth enamel is the hardest substance in the human body, designed to withstand the thermal, chemical and mechanical forces in our mouths. However, our enamel is not invincible. It is susceptible to cracking, acid erosion, and decay. All of which can lead to the need for a crown.

**Cavities** are bacterial infections of the enamel and other hard substances that make up each tooth. If a cavity is too large, a filling alone cannot protect your tooth.



When an **existing filling** is large and makes up more than half of the exposed tooth, a crown may be necessary to prevent further damage.

Patients who suffer from severe GERD or have acidic dietary habits (like drinking sodas daily), can quickly lose enamel through **acid erosion**. A crown is the best way to protect your tooth from continued damage.



Damage from **heavy clenching and/or grinding** during sleep leads to shortening and flattening of the teeth as enamel slowly wears away.

**Cracked teeth** can result from an injury, such as biting into a hard, foreign object. The best way to protect the tooth from future damage is with a crown.



After a **root canal treatment**, the tooth is more susceptible to breaking. A crown is often necessary to reinforce the tooth structure, restoring its health and functionality.

## WHAT DOES THE CROWN PROCESS INVOLVE?

While your tooth may be a little sensitive the first few days following your crown preparation, you should not experience any pain during visit one or two of this procedure. Once you return for your final crown, your bite should feel comfortable and smooth on your tongue.

### VISIT ONE

Local anesthetic is applied.

Existing decay is removed, and tooth is shaped.

An intraoral 3D scan is taken and sent to a dental lab.

Your temporary crown is created and fixed to your tooth.

### VISIT TWO

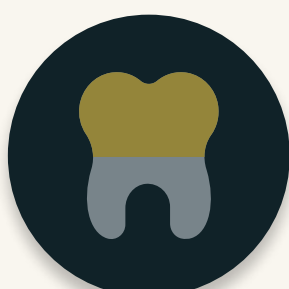
Temporary crown removed and your tooth is cleaned.

Fit of the final crown is confirmed with a close-up x-ray.

Adjustments are made for bite and comfort.

Permanent cement is attached to your final crown.

## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DENTAL CROWNS?



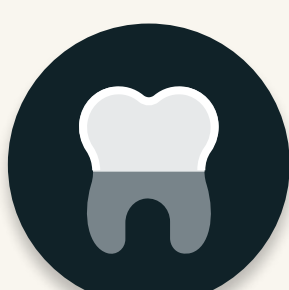
### GOLD

Though rarely used by dentists today, gold is a soft metal, and has the advantage of being very gentle to the opposite tooth that bites against it. It can also be quite thin, thus preserving healthy tooth structure. Metallic crowns also have some antibacterial properties, making them slightly more resistant to new cavities at the margins.



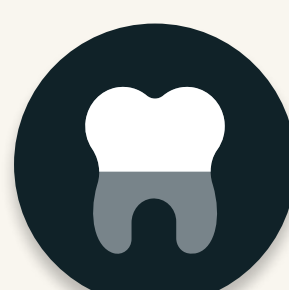
### TRADITIONAL PORCELAIN

Over the past few decades, porcelain-fused-to-metal material has become the most popular. This crown has a core of silver-colored metal covered by tooth-colored porcelain giving it a cosmetic advantage over gold crowns. These crowns are strong and durable for decades, though they will break under heavy or destructive forces.



### ALL PORCELAIN

All porcelain crowns are the most natural and beautiful crown material, allowing some translucence, just as real enamel does. However, all porcelain crowns are less conservative, requiring a good amount of tooth removal, and may have a higher risk of breaking than traditional porcelain.



### ZIRCONIA

Zirconia is a relatively new material that is tooth colored ceramic like porcelain, but with strength properties similar to metal crowns. There is no dark metallic color in zirconia, and it is extremely hard, virtually impossible to break. Zirconia crowns do however, have the disadvantage of being less translucent than your natural teeth.

## HOW CAN I MAKE MY CROWN LAST?

The most common reason that a crown would not last for decades is the development of a new cavity at the edge, or margin, of the crown. This is typically the result of a false sense of security people have when they receive a dental crown.



### GOOD HYGEINE

Promote a long lifespan for your dental crown by fighting cavities and performing great oral hygiene at home.



### REGULAR CHECK-UPS

Seeing your dentist consistently for professional teeth cleanings and check-ups is essential for those at high risk for cavities.



### PROPER PROTECTION

If you exhibit signs of clenching and/or grinding your teeth while you sleep, your dentist may prescribe a mouthguard to protect your teeth and dental work.

## BEGIN TODAY

A dental crown can rebuild and preserve your natural tooth, providing you with many more years of healthy chewing function. Our team is here to help you receive any essential dental care in order to maintain great oral health for decades to come!

**WANT TO KNOW MORE? GET IN TOUCH!**

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