

WHAT IS A CROWN?

A crown (or cap) replaces some or all of the outer part of your tooth. A crown fits over and is bonded strongly to your tooth. Smaller crowns are sometimes called inlays but the line that separates inlays from crowns is a little blurred, so here we refer to all as crowns.



WHY WOULD I NEED A CROWN?

A crown is a long term restorative answer to any of your teeth which are badly decayed, heavily filled or unsightly. We have found that one of the main reasons that teeth are lost is due to breakage caused from decay and drilling. Each time a filling is replaced it becomes bigger as more of your tooth is cut away.

Many surveys show that the average life of fillings is about five to nine years. During your lifetime one filling will need to be replaced many times making your filling gradually bigger and bigger. After replacing the filling two or three times, it is common for the tooth to die causing further problems.

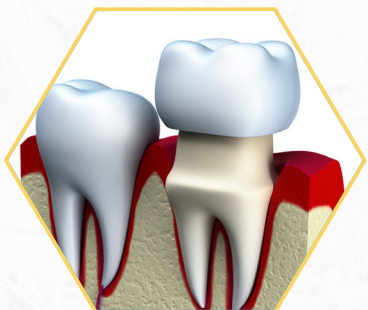
Therefore for all but small cavities, it is often better to have a long term solution such as a crown to stop the continual treatment and damage to your tooth. A crown can be used for a number of other reasons such as:

- You may have discoloured fillings and would like to improve the appearance of your tooth.
- You may have had a root filling and need a crown to protect what is left of the tooth.
- If you are having a bridge to replace a missing tooth then we will crown one or more teeth to hold the bridge in place.

WHAT IS A CROWN MADE OF?

On visible teeth we use a tooth coloured, reinforced ceramic to crown your teeth. Ceramic looks wonderful and works very well.

Our crowns are made by taking a digital scan of your tooth (no more messy impressions). The scan is sent immediately by Internet to the lab where the crown is designed and robotically milled out of solid zirconia (artificial diamond).



WHAT IS A POST CROWN?

If your tooth has been root-filled, it may be necessary to insert a post before placing a crown. A post provides support and helps your crown stay in place.

HOW IS A CROWN PREPARED?

First we need to shape your tooth. This involves removing the weak or unsightly outer surface, leaving only the stronger inner core. We leave any sound fillings in place as they make an excellent base for under the crown.

Next we take scans of your teeth that are sent to our laboratory along with the details of the colour shade to be used. While the technician custom makes your crown, we protect your tooth with a temporary crown which is easily removed before fitting the permanent one.



HOW IS A CROWN FITTED?

Before we cement your crown we carefully check the fit and appearance. It is common to make small adjustments to customise your crown so that it fits your bite. Once we are satisfied with the fit and appearance of the crown, we fix it in place with a dental cement or adhesive. The cement forms a seal to hold your crown in place.



HOW LONG DOES THE TREATMENT TAKE?

You will need to have at least two visits. The first visit is for the preparation, scanning, colour shade and fitting of the temporary crown. The second is to fit the permanent crown. Appointments are usually 1-2 weeks apart.



DOES IT HURT TO HAVE A TOOTH PREPARED FOR A CROWN?

No. We use a local anaesthetic and the preparation should feel no different from a filling.



WILL THE CROWN BE NOTICEABLE?

We make the crowns to match the colour of your teeth exactly. We record the colour of the neighbouring teeth and use digital photography to ensure that our laboratory can make a natural looking crown that matches the surrounding teeth.



WILL MY CROWN FEEL DIFFERENT?

Because the crown's shape will be slightly different from your pre-crowned tooth, you may be aware of it to begin with.

Your new crown may become a little tender to bite on while it adjusts. Within a few days it should feel fine and you will stop noticing it. If after a few days it hasn't settled, contact us as it may need further adjustment.

DO CROWNS COME OFF?

This is very rare. We perform many crown procedures and if they came off regularly then all our time would be spent replacing them. We do recommend that you avoid sticky lollies such as Minties or toffees. They can stick to crowns very strongly and pull them off. If this does occur, don't panic as crowns can be easily re-bonded.



HOW DO I CARE FOR MY CROWN?

Keep your new crown as clean as possible. Decay cannot start inside your crown, only at the edge. It is essential to keep the edges of your crown free of plaque by brushing and flossing daily. If you are at all unsure how to do this, we will be very happy to show you.



HOW LONG WILL MY CROWN LAST?

It depends on how you look after it! If you follow our suggested treatment plan, have regular check-ups every 6 months allowing us to keep you dentally fit, we will provide a 3 year guarantee on ceramic crowns. What this means to you is that if you break your crown during this time we will repair or replace it free of charge. (Conditions apply) Please note that this would be a very rare occurrence.

ARE CROWNS EXPENSIVE?

Not compared to the cost of replacing your tooth if you lose it. On a year per dollar basis they are less expensive than large fillings which need replacing more often.



DOES THIS MEAN I WILL NOT EXPERIENCE ANY MORE TROUBLE WITH MY TOOTH?

When your tooth is very worn, discoloured or damaged, a crown is the best and longest lasting solution to your problem.

However, a tooth that has had a lot of previous nerve damage is more likely to die than in an undamaged tooth. There is a risk that when preparing a tooth for a crown or a large filling, the nerve may die. This happens rarely and the tooth may undergo root canal treatment to remove the nerve, allowing the crown to remain.

WHAT IS A BRIDGE?

A bridge is a way of replacing missing teeth. It is an alternative to a removable partial denture and is fixed in place.

A bridge is made by placing crowns on the teeth either side of a space, and then joining these crowns together by placing a false tooth in the space.

A bridge is possible if you have enough strong adjacent teeth with good bone support. Implants are an alternative to a bridge and mean you may be able to replace missing teeth without crowning other teeth.



Diamond Dental Care & Implant Centre is dedicated to promoting a high standard of quality in both dentistry and customer care. We have created a relaxed and inviting environment for you to visit and a comfortable and enjoyable workplace for us to work in.

Our priority is to achieve and maintain your dental health. We take great care in helping you understand any treatment in terms of benefit to you as well as time and costs involved.

If there is anything that you wish to discuss with us, please call us on (07) 5477 0889. Alternatively you can send us a question by email from info@diamonddentalcare.com.au at any time.

We look forward to seeing you!

