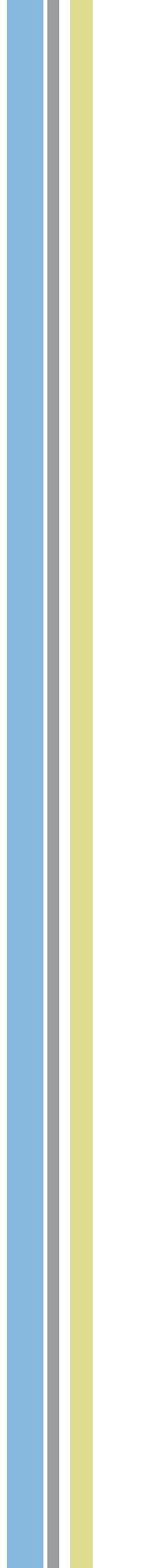


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ALBERT PLACE
DENTAL REFERRAL CENTRE

Crowns



Crowns

What is a crown?

A crown is an artificial restoration that fits over the remaining part of a prepared tooth, making it strong and giving it the shape of a natural tooth. A crown is sometimes known as a 'cap'.

Why would I need a crown?

Crowns are an ideal restoration for teeth that have been broken or have been weakened by decay or a very large filling. A crown could be used for a number of other reasons, for instance:

- You may have discoloured fillings and would like to improve the appearance of the tooth
- You may have a root filling which may need a crown to protect what is left of the tooth
- It may help hold a bridge or denture firmly in place.

What are the benefits?

A crown can restore the natural shape of your teeth and also protect teeth from any more damage.

Crowns can greatly improve the cosmetic appearance of your teeth.

When a dental crown is made, the dental laboratory technician can visualise and examine all aspects of your bite and jaw movements, from a variety of angles, and then sculpt your dental crown so it has the perfect anatomy.



How is a crown placed?

To prepare the tooth for a crown, it is reduced so the crown can fit over it. An impression of the teeth and gums are made and sent off to the lab for the crown fabrication. A temporary crown is fitted over the tooth until the permanent crown is made. On the next visit, the dentist removes the temporary crown and cements the permanent crown onto the tooth.

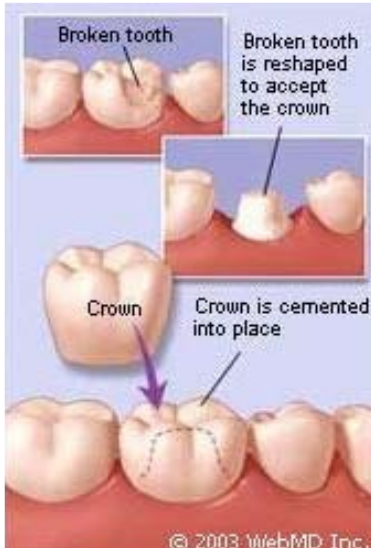
How long will a crown last?

Properly cared for crowns should last for many years. On average, a crown will last for approximately 12 years.

How much will it cost?

The costs of this treatment can vary. Such treatment is complex and often requires careful planning. This means that the costs may not be low, but the result will be predictable and accurate.

Are there alternatives to crowns?



A natural-coloured filling material can be used for minor repairs to front teeth. This is excellent where the tooth supports a filling, but may not work so well for broken tooth corners. There will always be a join between the tooth and the filling material.

Veneers can be used to restore a tooth that might have been damaged by decay or an accident, or might be badly discoloured for some reason.

Please ask if you require more information about these alternatives. There are also leaflets about these treatment options for you to read.

What is a crown made of?

Crowns can be made from a variety of different materials, and new materials are continually being introduced. Some of the most popular options are listed below.

Porcelain bonded to precious metal: this is what most crowns are made from. A precious-metal base is made and then porcelain is applied in layers over it.

Porcelain crowns: these crowns are made entirely out of porcelain and are not as strong as bonded crowns, but they can look very natural and are most often used for front teeth.

All ceramic crowns: this modern technique offers a metal free alternative, which can give the strength of a bonded crown and the appearance of a porcelain crown. Therefore it is suitable for use in all areas of the mouth.

Gold alloy crowns: gold is one of the oldest filling materials. Today it is used with other metal alloys to increase its strength, which makes it a very hard wearing restoration; these crowns are white or gold in colour.

