

PATIENT INFORMATION · RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

Crowns and bridges

A crown caps a weakened tooth. A bridge replaces a missing tooth using the teeth either side.

What is it?

A crown is a custom-made, tooth-shaped cap that covers a weakened or damaged tooth above the gum line, to restore its shape and strength. A bridge replaces one or more missing teeth by joining a false tooth to crowns on the neighbouring teeth or on implants.

Many crowns are designed and milled in the practice with CEREC, often in a single visit. Some cases still need a dental laboratory.

- **Ceramic or porcelain:** tooth-coloured; often used for front teeth
- **Zirconia:** a very strong ceramic, often used for back teeth
- **Porcelain fused to metal:** a metal core with a porcelain outer layer
- **Implant-supported bridge:** held by implants instead of natural teeth

Who it may help

- ✓ A tooth that is cracked, heavily filled or weakened
- ✓ A tooth that has had root canal treatment
- ✓ A gap from a missing tooth, where the teeth either side can support a bridge

Suitability depends on your individual situation and is confirmed after an examination.

How it works



- 1 The tooth is shaped to make room for a crown.



- 2 A digital scan records the shape of the tooth and your bite.



- 3 The crown is fixed over the tooth, and the bite is checked.



- 4 A bridge can replace a missing tooth, held by crowns on the teeth either side.

Simplified illustration, not to scale. Your own treatment may differ.

What to expect

- 1 **Consultation.** Your dentist examines your teeth and talks through your options.
- 2 **Tooth preparation.** Some of the outer tooth is removed to make room for the crown. For a bridge, the teeth either side of the gap are shaped.
- 3 **Digital scan.** A scan of the prepared teeth and your bite is used to design the crown or bridge.
- 4 **Same day or temporary.** We aim for same-day crowns where suitable. Otherwise a temporary is placed while yours is made.

What to expect (continued)

- 5 Finishing and fitting.** The restoration is polished, stained to match your teeth, then fixed in place and your bite checked.

Things to consider

- **Tooth reshaping:** tooth structure removed for a crown can't be replaced
- **Sensitivity:** some sensitivity after fitting is common and usually settles
- **Cleaning under bridges:** bridges need floss threaders or interdental brushes, and the supporting teeth must stay healthy

Any surgical or invasive procedure carries risks. Before proceeding, you should seek a second opinion from an appropriately qualified health practitioner.

Aftercare

- ✓ **Cleaning:** brush twice a day with a soft brush and fluoride toothpaste; floss carefully around the crown or bridge
- ✓ **Eating:** avoid very hard, sticky or crunchy foods that could damage or loosen it
- ✓ **Protection:** wear a mouthguard for contact sport or a night guard if you grind; don't bite nails, pens or packaging
- ✓ **Check-ups:** regular check-ups and cleans help us keep an eye on your restoration

General guidance only. Always follow the specific instructions your dentist gives you.

Costs & health funds

Fees depend on your treatment and are confirmed after an examination, with a written estimate before planned treatment starts. Your health fund rebate depends on your fund, level of extras cover, annual limits and waiting periods. We can claim on the spot with Tyro, so on the day you pay any gap. All health funds are welcome. Crowns are usually claimable under major dental extras cover. Check your policy.

Call (08) 9330 7115 if you have heavy bleeding, pain or swelling that gets worse, fever, or anything that worries you. For trouble breathing or swallowing, call 000.

Questions to ask your dentist

- ? Do I need a crown, or could a filling or onlay work?
- ? Can my crown be made the same day with CEREC?
- ? Which material do you recommend for this tooth?
- ? Bridge or implant: what are the differences for me?
- ? How do I clean under a bridge?
- ? What will it cost, and what might my fund cover?

When to call us on (08) 9330 7115

- Your bite feels high
- Pain increases instead of settling
- The crown or bridge feels loose

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