

PATIENT INFORMATION · RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

Inlays and onlays

Custom-made repairs for back teeth, between a filling and a crown.

What is it?

Inlays and onlays repair mild to moderate decay or damage on back teeth. An inlay fits inside the grooves of the chewing surface; an onlay also covers one or more cusps (the raised points of the tooth). Each is made as one solid piece to fit the prepared tooth, then bonded in place.

They usually remove less tooth than a full crown, and with CEREC many are made in one visit.

Who it may help

- ✓ Damage or decay too large for a standard filling
- ✓ A tooth that doesn't need a full crown
- ✓ Replacing a large, worn old filling

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

How it works



1 Decay or an old filling has damaged the chewing surface of a back tooth.



2 The damaged area is removed, and the tooth is shaped.



3 A custom ceramic inlay or onlay is made to fit the space.



4 It is bonded into place and polished. An onlay also covers one or more cusps.

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

What to expect

- 1 Consultation.** Your dentist examines the tooth, often with a scan, to check whether an inlay or onlay suits it.
- 2 Preparation.** Old filling material, decay or damaged tooth is removed, and the tooth is shaped.
- 3 Scan and design.** A digital scan is used to design the restoration to fit your bite.
- 4 Fitting.** The inlay or onlay is bonded in place, adjusted and polished. If it can't be made the same day, a temporary is placed first.

Things to consider

- **Not for every tooth:** very large damage may need a crown
- **Sensitivity:** some sensitivity after bonding is common
- **Wear and care:** grinding and hard foods can damage any restoration

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

Aftercare

- ✓ **Hard foods:** for the first few days, avoid biting directly on hard foods such as ice or hard lollies
- ✓ **Cleaning:** brush twice a day with a soft brush and fluoride toothpaste, and floss daily
- ✓ **Check-ups:** regular check-ups and cleans help us monitor the 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.

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

- ? Would an inlay, an onlay, a filling or a crown suit this tooth?
- ? Can it be made the same day?
- ? What material will be used?
- ? How should I look after it?
- ? What will it cost, and what might my health fund cover?

Before your appointment

- ✓ Have a normal meal beforehand: you may be numb for a few hours afterwards
- ✓ Allow a longer appointment if your restoration is designed and milled in-house; we'll tell you how long when you book
- ✓ Tell us about any changes to your health or medicines since your last visit
- ✓ Your written treatment plan or estimate, if you have one
- ✓ Headphones, if music helps you relax
- ✓ Your Medicare card and health fund card, for on-the-spot claiming with Tyro
- ✓ A DVA or concession card, if you have one

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