

# What is a Crown?



A crown is a tooth-shaped “cap” that is placed over the tooth to restore its shape, size, and function. The purpose of a crown is to strengthen a tooth or improve the tooth’s appearance. Crowns are used to restore a tooth that can’t support a filling, attach a bridge to replace missing teeth, restore a cracked tooth, protect a weak tooth, cover a dental implant, or cover a misshapen or discolored tooth.

Crowns are made from several different materials. The materials we most commonly use for crowns are metal alloys (white or yellow gold), porcelain, or a combination of the two. If porcelain is used, the shade is matched to your current tooth color to look as natural as possible. The dentist considers the location and function of the tooth before discussing the material option that will best suit you.

Generally two visits are needed to place a crown. The first visit is preparation and placing a temporary cap on the tooth. A few small impressions are taken during the first visit so the crown can be made. The second visit is in about 4-6 weeks, once the crown has been fabricated. During this visit, the temporary cap is removed and the crown is adjusted to fit your bite. Once you and the dentist are satisfied with the look and fit, the crown is cemented in place.

You care for your crown just like you would a real tooth; brush twice daily and floss daily. Avoid chewing hard foods or objects, like ice or pencils, to prevent damage to your crown. Continue normal visits with your dental professionals.

White Gold &  
Porcelain Crown



Yellow Gold Crown



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