



Why would I need a crown?

You will need a crown because the tooth has been weakened by extensive dental decay, large fillings, accidental damage or root canal treatment. A crown holds together the remaining tooth and any dental filling material, making it stronger. A crown can also be used to greatly improve the appearance of a tooth that is damaged, discoloured, mis-shapen or misaligned.

How long does a crown last?

A crown should last for many years. We are so confident of the quality of our crowns we guarantee them for 2 years.

How does the dentist prepare the tooth for a crown?

The dentist will shape the tooth so that, with the artificial crown, it will be the same size as a normal tooth. Preparation time will depend on how damaged the tooth is and whether it needs to be built up with a filling. Your dentist will use a soft mouldable material to make an exact 'impression' of the tooth that is to be crowned and the nearby teeth. A dental technician uses the impression to make the crown the exact height and size needed.

A temporary crown made of plastic or metal is put over the tooth until the permanent crown is made. You can chew on a temporary crown but it won't be as strong as the finished one. When the crown is fitted, your dentist will make small adjustments to make sure you can bite comfortably. The crown is tried on first, and then fixed into place.

Why would the crown fail and I need root canal treatment?

Preparing a tooth for a crown will consist of removing some of the natural tooth tissue. This preparation can irritate the nerve tissue (called the pulp) in the centre of the tooth, leaving the tooth sensitive to heat, cold and pressure, in very few cases root treatment may be necessary (this would incur further charges). The process is irreversible because part of the tooth's enamel must be removed to provide adequate room for the restoration and cement.

It is important to recognise that crowns are rarely made for pristine, intact teeth. Rather, they are made to protect and restore teeth which have been damaged by wear, trauma, or cycles of decay and repair. After a lifetime of cumulative insult, crown preparation can be the final straw, bringing the tooth pulp to breakdown and the need for root canal treatment.