



CROWNS / CAPS

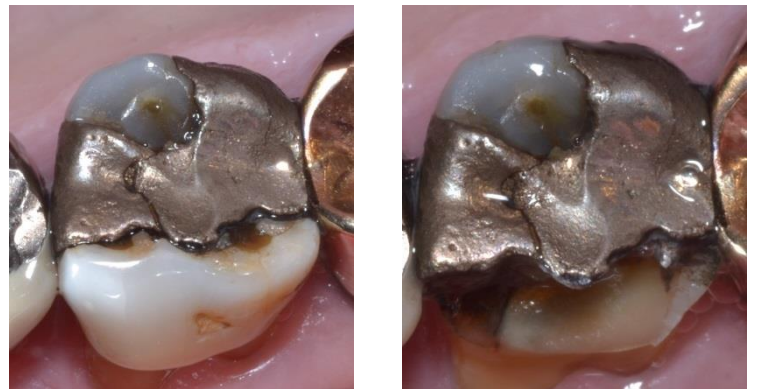
A crown (or cap) is a covering that encases the entire tooth, restoring it to its original shape and size. A crown protects and strengthens tooth structure that cannot be restored with fillings or other types of restorations. To the right are before-and-after pictures of 3 teeth that were crowned.



Crowns can be made of many different materials, such as porcelain, metal, or a combination of porcelain and metal. Below are pictures of the inside of an all-porcelain crown and a porcelain / metal combination crown.



Oftentimes dentists will advise crowns as a preventative measure, to help your teeth from fracturing. He is an example of a tooth with a very thin wall of enamel and a very large, old filling showing signs of wear. This tooth should have been crowned: the wall eventually fractured.



Other reasons for crowns include:

- Broken or fractured teeth.
- Cosmetic enhancement.
- Decayed teeth.
- Fractured fillings.
- Large fillings.
- Teeth with root canals.

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What does getting a crown involve?

A crown procedure usually requires two appointments. Your first appointment will include shaping of the tooth followed by an impression. A temporary crown is then fabricated. Your impression will be sent to a laboratory for 2 to 3 weeks. At your second appointment your temporary crown will be removed, the tooth will be cleaned, and your new crown will be carefully placed to ensure the spacing and bite are accurate. You will be given care instructions and encouraged to continue your regular check-up visits to keep your new tooth (and other teeth) trouble free!

How long will my crown last?

On average, crowns will last 7 to 10 years. There are many variables, such as (but not limited to):

- strength of a person's bite
- susceptibility to decay
- condition of the tooth being crowned
- presence of gum disease
- amount of clenching & grinding, as well as usage of a nightguard
- how many other teeth are present, as well as the condition of those teeth, to distribute biting forces
- chewing habits (hard vs soft foods, chewing of non-food items such as pencils and tearing bags)

I want a cosmetic makeover. Are the crowns different in this case? Are the fees different?

Yes. When a person undergoes extensive cosmetic treatment, there is a lot of preparation work that is unnecessary for one or two crowns. Also, certain laboratories must be utilized to get the job done correctly. For both of these reasons, you should expect the cost per tooth will be higher than that of a single crown. However, the results can be very rewarding!

