



CROWNS

What is a crown?

Imagine a tooth-shaped shell that will fit over your existing tooth as a type of protective covering.

Teeth are crowned because

- They are broken down and cannot be fixed with normal fillings
- They have a crack that is threatening to destroy the tooth
- They have had a root filling and have become weak and brittle
- They already have a crown on which has failed

What colour will it be?

There are several types of crown available; your dentist will discuss the options available.

What are my options and the risks and benefits?

- Do nothing and leave and monitor -
there is no cost **BUT** underlying issues like decay may get worse leading to the tooth either breaking down further or needing a root treatment or extraction if it cannot be fixed
- Attempt a simple filling rather than a crown
This will treat decay and is quicker and cheaper than a crown **BUT** it doesn't provide the strength which means the tooth may break down further so the tooth may need a root treatment or extraction if it cannot be fixed.
- Placing a crown
This will treat the underlying problems such as decay or fractures
It is stronger and lasts longer than a simple filling
Can give a better cosmetic result

BUT it is more expensive than a simple filling and there is a 1 in 10 chance that the nerve will die after a tooth is crowned, in which case the tooth would require a root filling to save it and it may need a new crown

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What does it involve?

Your crowning procedure normally takes 2 visits.

On the first visit the tooth is prepared for a crown. This involves trimming the tooth down and taking an impression. A temporary dressing or temporary plastic crown is then placed over the tooth whilst your crown is being made at a dental laboratory.

If your temporary comes off please contact us. Failure to do so may mean that your crown will not fit, meaning we will have to start your treatment from the beginning.

Your crown will be ready to fit at your second appointment. At this appointment the temporary is removed and your new crown cemented into place. Sometimes we may need to make small adjustments to make the crown fit to the tooth and to fit when you bite your teeth together.

Does it hurt?

No. A local anaesthetic is used so it shouldn't feel much different to having an ordinary filling.

Things to remember:

Crowned teeth can be sensitive to hot and cold. This sensitivity should be temporary in nature. If it persists or gets worse then you should contact the practice. Crowning a tooth carries a risk to the nerve inside the tooth. There is a 1 in 10 chance that the nerve will die after a tooth is crowned, in which case the tooth would require a root filling to save it and may need a new crown

On the odd occasion the crown will need further adjustment. If after a few days something doesn't feel right, please phone us.

