

of your new crown and then it will be cemented in place using a dental adhesive.

Will the crown feel strange?

The shape of the crown may be slightly different from your normal tooth; you may be aware of it initially.

Within a few days it should feel fine, and you will no longer notice it. The height of the crown may need to be adjusted if your teeth do not feel comfortable when you bite together and you should speak to your dentist if that is the case.

How should I care for my teeth after I receive a crown?

To prevent damaging or fracturing the crown, avoid chewing extremely hard foods and ice.

You also should avoid grinding or clenching your teeth. In addition to brushing twice a day and visiting your dentist regularly, cleaning between your teeth is essential if you have crowns.

Use floss or interdental cleaners (specially shaped brushes and sticks) to remove plaque from the crown area where the gum meets the tooth. This process helps to prevent both dental decay and gum disease.

Still Confused!

If you are still unclear about the process of placing a crown or a post and core build-up, speak to your SADA dentist.

Your dentist can walk you through the steps of the procedures and address any questions or concerns you may have. It is important to have these types of conversations with your dentist so that your journey to an improved smile doesn't start—or end—with a frown.

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Crowns

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Dental restorations restore the function, integrity, and morphology of missing tooth structure, which can be caused by decay or external trauma, such as chipping or cracking a tooth.

Fabrication of a crown (a type of dental restoration) usually requires two dental visits.

The first visit involves an examination of the tooth to determine how it should be restored and preparation of the tooth for the restoration; this visit may include a core build-up (sometimes requiring a post), fabrication of a temporary crown, and taking an impression to be sent to the laboratory.

The second visit usually involves delivery of the final restoration, which has been fabricated in the laboratory. In some offices that have access to specialized equipment, the dentist may be able to perform the entire crown procedure in the same day without the use of an external laboratory.

What is a crown?

A crown is a restoration that covers (or “caps”) a tooth to restore it to its normal shape and size which can strengthen and improve the appearance of the tooth.

Crowns are necessary when a tooth has been damaged significantly and cannot be adequately restored with a filling. A crown can protect a weak tooth from fracturing; it also can prevent a cracked tooth from further damage. Crowns can cover discoloured or misshapen teeth for more aesthetically pleasing smiles.

What is a post and core build-up?

The dentist may use a filling material to restore a more ideal shape for supporting a crown (core build-up) when a tooth is severely decayed or fractured and lacks sufficient tooth structure to adequately hold the crown

In some cases, a dentist will first perform a root canal treatment, a procedure in which pulp (nerve) is cleared out of the tooth and the root canal is sealed with a special material.

After the root canal, the dentist may place a post, which is a pin made of metal or resin, in the open canal and secure it with dental filling to “build up” the structure of the tooth. Once the material has hardened, the tooth can be prepared for a crown.

Will a crown look natural?

It can, depending on the type of crown you elect to have made. A crown can be fabricated from porcelain, from gold, or from a combination of porcelain and metal.

A crown can look just like a natural tooth when it is made with porcelain coverage.

Numerous factors are considered when determining the crown material that is best for your particular tooth, including the color, bite, shape, space available, and location of the tooth in your mouth.

Are all crowns the same?

No. Crowns can be made of several different materials.

Porcelain bonded to metal

This has been the traditional way to produce a tooth-coloured crown. A metal base is made to provide strength and this is coated in a layer of tooth coloured porcelain.

All ceramic crowns

The use of modern ceramic materials offers a metal free alternative, which can give both strength and a more natural colour and less bulky appearance.

Gold alloy crowns

Gold has been used to make crowns for many years. It is very strong and long lasting. Some patients do not like the appearance of gold in their mouth, some do; this is a personal preference.

How is a crown prepared?

The dental surgeon will prepare what is left of the natural tooth to the best possible shape to take the crown.

The amount of tooth substance removed will be the same thickness as the new crown. A local anaesthetic will be used when a crown is prepared and it should feel no different from having a filling.

The dental surgeon will then take an impression of the prepared tooth and one of the opposite jaw. The way the two jaws bite together will also be recorded.

These impressions will be sent to the dental technician, along with an appropriate shade, prescription and other information required for the crown to be made. It usually takes about one to two weeks for a crown to be made.

What happens to my tooth while I am waiting for my crown?

The dentist will provide you with a temporary crown to protect the prepared tooth until the new crown is ready.

The appearance and function of temporary crowns is not ideal, but remember this is only a temporary measure to last about two weeks.

What happens when my new crown is ready? You will return for a second appointment and the dental surgeon will remove the temporary crown. He/She will check the fit and appearance