

FACTS ABOUT CROWNS AND BRIDGES

A crown is a “cap” that covers a compromised tooth. A tooth may become compromised due to decay, fracture, a large defective filling or a tooth that has had a root canal, and is now very brittle. Crowns are used to improve the structure and appearance of a natural tooth, or to provide support for an attachment of a bridge.

A bridge is a custom-fitted device which replaces one or more missing teeth. Bridges are anchored on either end to existing teeth with specially prepared crowns which hold the bridge in place. Missing teeth need to be replaced to prevent the eventual movement of the surrounding teeth, which can lead to malocclusion (an improper bite) and /or periodontal disease or gum disease. Bridges will also help prevent unnatural stress on other teeth which can lead to damage of those teeth. Bridges also can enhance your smile, chewing and speech.

A comprehensive examination, x-rays and a review of your medical and dental history is necessary before teeth are prepared for a crown or bridge. The process usually requires two appointments where at the first appointment the tooth/teeth will be reduced or prepped, impressioned and a temporary crown will be placed on the tooth/teeth. The second appointment the permanent crown will be fitted and cemented.

Treat your new crown or bridge as you would your other natural teeth. Brush twice a day and floss daily using special floss aids call bridge threaders to clean under the bridge and around the anchor teeth. Good oral hygiene and regular dental care appointments will allow you to maintain and protect your investment.