

Crowns and Bridges

CROWNS

When a tooth is fractured, has a large, old filling, or is severely damaged by decay, your dentist may recommend the placement of a **crown, or cap**. Crowns strengthen and protect the remaining tooth structure and can improve the appearance of your smile. Types of crowns include the full porcelain crown, the porcelain-fused-to-metal crown and the all-metal crown.

Fitting a crown requires at least two visits to the dentist's office. Initially, the Dentist:

Removes decay and shapes the tooth.



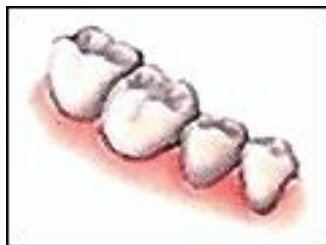
Makes an Impression.



Makes and fits a temporary or transitional crown of plastic or metal.



In a subsequent visit, the dentist: Removes the temporary crown, fits and adjusts the final crown. Cements the crown into place.

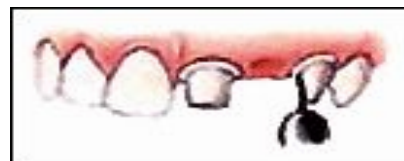


BRIDGES

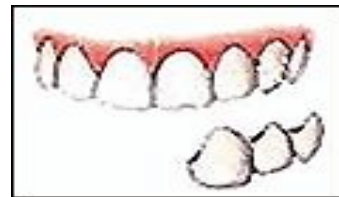
Few incidents have greater impact on dental health and personal appearance than **tooth loss**. When one or more teeth are missing, the remaining teeth can drift out of position, which can lead to a change in the bite, the loss of additional teeth, decay and gum disease.

When tooth loss occurs, your dentist may recommend the placement of a bridge. A **bridge** is one or more replacement teeth anchored by one or more crowns on each side.

Initially, the dentist prepares teeth on each side of the space to receive crowns and makes an impression of the entire area.



Fits a temporary or transitional bridge.



In a subsequent visit, the dentist places, adjusts and cements the fixed bridge.

