

*Ask your
Dentist!*

*“What is
a Dental
Crown?”*



At some point, your dentist may recommend that you receive a Dental Crown. A dental crown, sometimes also called a “cap”, is a custom-made restoration covers most of your existing natural tooth once the tooth has been properly shaped and prepared by your dentist.

The crown can either be made of porcelain, porcelain over a metal shell or made entirely of metal, usually gold.

Why do I need a Dental Crown?

A Dental Crown is often the best solution to replace large, worn fillings, repair a tooth that has cracked, has a very large cavity or has undergone Root Canal treatment. The crown covers and provides increased protection for the natural tooth beneath it.

How is a Dental Crown fitted?

Because a Dental Crown must be custom hand-crafted to fit your bite and match your other remaining teeth, it may take more than one appointment for your dentist to fit you with a crown.

During the first appointment, diagnostic moulds and x-rays are taken to evaluate the tooth. This will determine if the tooth requires any treatment prior to starting the crown. The second appointment will involve shaping and preparing the tooth for the crown. An impression (or a “mould”) is taken of the tooth, and from it a model is poured. Your crown is made from this model, (it can take 1 - 2 weeks) and during this time a temporary crown is placed on the tooth. The temporary crown is designed to protect your tooth and gum between visits, but is not durable enough to last a long time.

When your crown is ready, your dentist will remove the temporary crown, clean away the temporary cement and check the fit of the new crown. If everything is acceptable, the crown will then be cemented to your tooth.

Once your new crown is in place, you may experience a mild sensitivity to hot or cold temperatures on the tooth for several weeks. This is only temporary and should subside on its own.

What if I have problems with my Dental Crown?

A Dental Crown is a long-lasting restoration that should give you many years of trouble-free use. You should take care of it as you would any of your natural teeth - with good home care and professional checkups.

If, however, you do experience problems, contact your dentist right away. Your dentist will be glad to answer any of your questions and ensure everything is satisfactory.



*Information courtesy of your
dentist and the Nova Scotia
Dental Association*
www.healthyteeth.org