

TOOTH SUPPORTED CROWN

A tooth supported crown is a dental restoration that covers or "caps" a structurally compromised tooth to protect it. It is cemented into place and cannot be taken out.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What materials are in a Tooth Supported Crown?

Crowns are made of three types of materials:

- Ceramic/hybrid - most like a natural tooth in color
- Porcelain fused to an inner core of metal - usually a gold alloy
- Full cast gold alloy

2. What are the benefits of having a Tooth Supported Crown?

- Crowns restore a tooth to its natural size and shape.
- Esthetics are enhanced when using tooth colored materials
- They improve the strength and function of a broken down tooth that may otherwise be lost. They reduce the risk of fracture in weak teeth and may also improve the bite. They may also be designed to decrease the risk of root decay.

3. What are the risks of having a Tooth Supported Crown?

- Preparation for a crown weakens tooth structure and permanently alters the tooth underneath
- Preparing for and placing a crown can irritate the tooth and cause post-operative sensitivity, which may last up to 3 months.
- The tooth underneath the crown may need root canal treatment about 6% - 8% of the time during the lifetime of the tooth
- If the cement seal at the edge of the crown is lost, decay may form at the junction of the crown and the tooth

The risks to the crown are:

- Porcelain may chip and metal may wear over time
- If the tooth needs a root canal after the crown is placed, the procedure may fracture the crown and the crown may need to be replaced

4. What are the alternatives to a Tooth Supported Crown?

Alternatives to crowns are fillings and onlays. These restorations remove decay and seal the tooth but they may not protect a tooth that is weakened or broken down. They also do not decrease the risk of root decay or improve the long term function and aesthetics of broken down teeth.

5. Are there any considerations after having a Tooth Supported Crown?

A crown may chip or break if there are excessive bite forces on it or if it is used for abnormal activity (e.g. opening bottles, chewing ice, biting fishing line or thread)

The color of the crown may be a good match with the natural teeth when placed, but less of a match if the other teeth are bleached or darken over time.



Porcelain crowns restore smile



Porcelain fused to metal crowns restore natural tooth appearance and function



Gold crowns restore function