

Crowns, often referred to as 'caps' are used to rebuild teeth that are broken down or otherwise weakened.

How are crowns made?

- They are more complicated to make than direct fillings and require a number of stages.
- Firstly we carefully prepare the tooth to a precise shape and take an impression. We then make a temporary crown to ensure comfort during the manufacturing process.
- The crown is fabricated by a dental technician on an accurate model of your tooth so creating a more natural tooth shape and colour than a direct filling.
- We try the crown in place at a second visit and check for fit, shape, colour and bite before cementing it in place. Occasionally we need to adjust the crown before this cementing.

When are crowns advised?

Amongst others we typically advise crowns in the following situations:

- In teeth with large fillings and weak cusps
- Where teeth are broken or poorly shaped
- To strengthen root filled teeth which are otherwise prone to root fracture
- Where clients require tooth coloured restorations and direct composite resin fillings are not suitable
- To close wide spaces between teeth either to improve appearance or reduce food trapping

What are the advantages?

- Rather than going inside a tooth like a traditional filling, a crown goes over the whole tooth thereby covering up weakened parts of the tooth and original filling. Biting forces are then better resisted by the tooth with less risk of further fracture.
- Strong and long lasting crowns can be made from both cast metals and tooth coloured ceramic materials or often a combination of both.

Are there any disadvantages?

- It is inevitable that some healthy tooth tissue is removed during crown preparation. However, this is justified because of the protective effect the crown has for the remaining tooth.
- They require more investment of time and finance – however, the result is generally better and longer lasting than fillings.

Can anything go wrong?

- As with all dental treatments, teeth are biological structures and it is impossible to predict every eventuality, for example, how much the gums may recede.
- In common with all heavily restored teeth the tooth nerve can sometimes die and require further treatment. This can be many years after the original treatment.
- With good oral hygiene and regular maintenance crowns will often give many, many years of good service.

