

After Crowns and Bridges

Crown and Bridge Post-Operative Instructions

- When a cracked, fractured, or decayed tooth is too damaged for a filling, a crown is generally the treatment of choice.
- A bridge consists of replacement teeth that fill the space made by a missing tooth or teeth. The bridge is anchored with implant posts, or crowns which are bonded to healthy adjacent teeth.
- While the permanent prosthesis is being made, a temporary will be placed for the following reasons: to prevent teeth from shifting; to protect the damaged tooth; to protect the prepared teeth.
- Temporaries are made of light-weight materials. Therefore, while wearing a temporary, be careful not to eat very hard or crunchy foods.
- Because temporaries are placed with a soft cement so they're easy to remove at a later date, they are easily detached. Therefore, be careful when eating sticky foods and while flossing. When flossing, pull the floss through the teeth from front to back to avoid dislodging the temporary.
- If a temporary becomes dislodged, contact the office for instructions.
- Attempt to replace a temporary back on the prepared tooth yourself. If the temporary will not stay in place, toothpaste can be used as a short-term cement. In an emergency situation, most pharmacies sell packets of temporary cement. NEVER use anything like Super Glue to re-cement dental work!
- Although it is common to have some sensitivity with temporary crowns and bridges for a few days after they are placed, extreme sensitivity or a persisting toothache should be reported to the office.
- Warm salt water rinses can be used for several days after temporaries are placed to help soothe soreness in the gums.
- Again some sensitivity may occur for several days after the cementation of the final crown or bridge. Therefore, avoid chewing on the new restorations for several hours, or until all dental anesthesia has worn off.
- Although crowns and bridges are very durable restorations, professional preventive care and proper home care are necessary to prevent dental disease from developing in the underlying teeth and gums.
- After the initial adjustment period, should sensitivity, pain, or chewing difficulties continue, please contact the office for instructions.