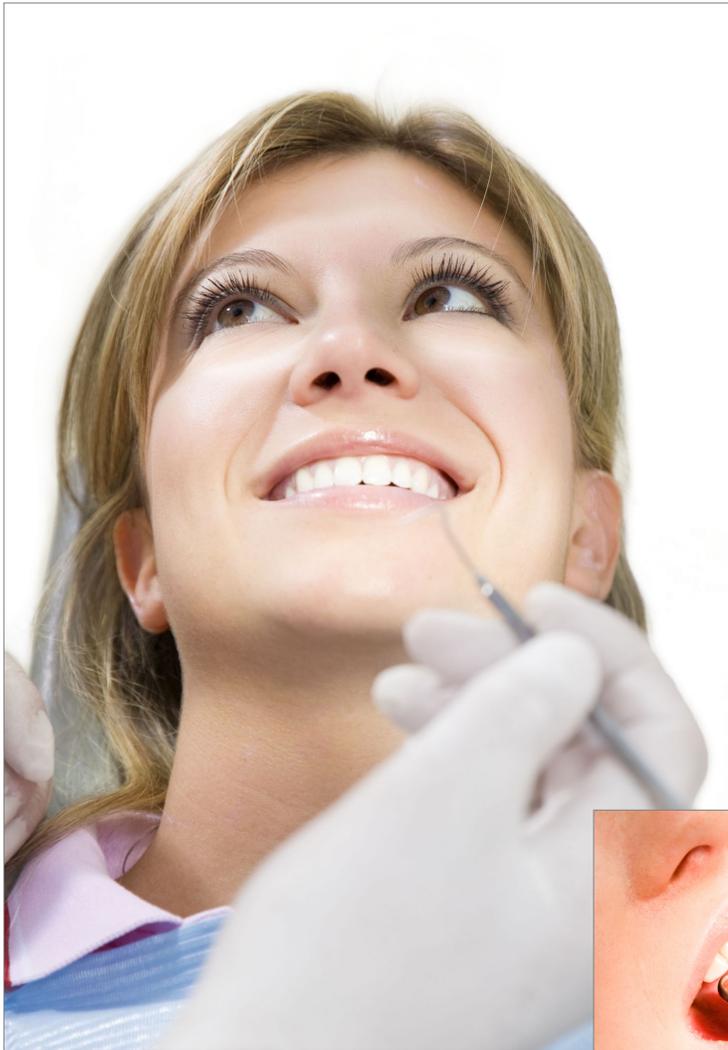


CROWNS

Just because you have a crown doesn't mean the tooth is protected from decay or gum disease.



What is a crown?

A crown is a cap that's cemented over the entire tooth from the chewing surface down to the gumline. Dentists use crowns for a variety of reasons, including:

- to protect or restore a tooth that's cracked or weakened by decay
- to cover a discolored or misshapen tooth
- to cover a dental implant
- to hold a dental bridge in place
- to cover a tooth that's had a root canal

What are they made of?

Temporary crowns are made of acrylic or stainless steel and are meant to last for a couple of weeks until the permanent crown is ready. Permanent crowns can be made of all metal, porcelain fused to metal, all resin or all ceramic and are designed to last from 5 to 15 years or more with good care.

Porcelain is most often used on front teeth because it appears the most natural. If you need a tooth-colored crown with extra strength, the porcelain might be fused over metal. Gold crowns are stronger and less vulnerable to chipping than porcelain, so they're sometimes used for molars or back teeth.



Crowns give the appearance of a natural tooth

What's the best way to care for them?

Because temporary crowns are secured with a removable cement, be especially careful when flossing to slide the floss out rather than lifting it out from between the teeth.

The Sonicare toothbrush is a great way to care for crowns and all of your other teeth, too. Sonicare's dynamic cleaning action helps remove plaque along the gumline where the crown and gum meet. It's also proven to reduce gingivitis, be safe and gentle on restorative materials* and improve overall gum health in only two weeks.**

*De Jager M, Nelson R, Schmitt P, Moore M, Putt MS, Kunzelmann KH, Nyamaa I, Garcia-Godoy F, Garcia-Godoy C. Comp Cont Educ Dent 2007; 28.
**Holt J, Sturm D, Master A, Jenkins W, Schmitt P, Hefti A. Comp Cont Educ Dent. 2007;28(9):35-41.