

Post Op Instructions for Crown or Bridge Treatment

1. Following the first appointment for a crown or bridge procedure, a temporary is usually placed on the tooth or teeth involved. This will protect them while the custom, final restoration is being made.
2. Temporary crowns are of universal size and shade that also serve a cosmetic function for front teeth. Your final restoration will be shaped and shaded better than the temporary to match your other teeth in both color and function.
3. The use of temporary cement makes for easy removal at your next appointment. If the temporary crown comes off between appointments, slip it back on and call our office for an appointment. If it is over a weekend, or you cannot make it to the office, toothpaste or denture adhesive may be used inside the temporary until you are able see us.
4. Remember that a temporary crown is **TEMPORARY** and is not made to fit your tooth precisely. It is made out of acrylic and is likely to break if worn for extended periods of time.
5. Many crowns fit below the gumline. Therefore, you may experience some discomfort for a few days due to the irritation of that area during the procedures. Injections of anesthetic often make the area sore as well. Sensitivity to cold or pressure is also possible.
6. When your final crown or bridge is cemented, it may take a few days to get used to. If you feel that the bite is not correctly balanced, be sure and call for an appointment for a simple adjustment.
7. Proper brushing and flossing is recommended to help you retain your final restoration. It is also recommended that you keep your regular cleaning and check ups at our office so we can monitor your crowns and bridges with x-rays and catch any changes before they get worse. The only area that a crowned tooth can decay is at the edge of the crown at the gumline where you cannot see.
8. At your final appointment for a crown or bridge, the temporary crown will be removed and the porcelain or gold crown will be cemented in place. This appointment usually does not require the patient to be numb.
9. The cement that is used to secure a crown or temporary takes approximately 24 hours to achieve full strength. Therefore, do not chew on anything hard or sticky on the side of the mouth that the new crown has been placed.
10. Be especially careful while you are still numb. It can be easy to bite your lip, tongue, or cheek when you are numb.
11. The topical anesthetic that is placed on your gum prior to the injection can irritate the gums and make them "peel" or develop white spots. A temporary darkening of the gums may also be present; we recommend warm salt water for this.
12. If your final crown or bridge ever comes off, please call our office and have it recemented as soon as possible. Delaying this could result in further injury to the tooth and a **NEW** restoration having to be made. Remember that most insurance will not pay for the same thing twice. If you have any problems or questions about your new crown (or any dental questions) please call our office. (770)773-7244.