



## Crowns & Bridges

### What are Crowns and Bridges?

Crowns and most bridges are fixed prosthetic devices which are cemented onto existing teeth or implants and can only be removed by a dentist.

### Crowns

A crown is placed to entirely cover or "cap" a tooth. Alongside protecting a damaged tooth, a crown can also be used to improve its appearance, shape or alignment. A crown can be placed on top of an implant to provide a tooth-like shape and a structure for function. Porcelain or ceramic crowns can be matched to the colour of your natural teeth. Other materials include gold and metal alloys, acrylic and zirconia. Alloys are usually stronger than porcelain and can be recommended for back teeth. A crown which consists of porcelain bonded to a metal shell is often used because it is both strong and attractive.



Call us on  
01542 886251

## When would a crown be recommended?

- To protect a weak tooth from fracturing
- To restore a broken tooth
- To cover a dental implant
- To cover a discoloured or poorly shaped tooth
- To protect a tooth which has had root canal treatment

## Bridges

A bridge may be recommended if you're missing one or more teeth. Gaps left by missing teeth eventually cause the remaining teeth to rotate or shift into the empty spaces, resulting in a poor bite. The imbalance caused by missing teeth can also lead to gum disease and temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders.

## How are Crowns and Bridges Made?

Before either a crown or a bridge can be made, the tooth (or teeth) must be reduced in size so that the crown or bridge will fit over it properly. After reducing the tooth/teeth, your dentist will take an impression to provide an exact mould for the crown or bridge. If porcelain is to be used, your dentist will determine the correct shade for the crown or bridge to match the colour of your existing teeth. The impressions are sent to a dental technician who then makes your crown or bridge.

A temporary crown or bridge will be put in place to cover the prepared teeth while the permanent crown or bridge is being made. When the permanent crown or bridge is ready, the temporary crown or bridge will be removed, and the new crown or bridge cemented onto your prepared tooth or teeth.



Call us on  
01542 886251

## Commonly discussed topics relating to Crowns and Bridges

### Reduction of the tooth structure

In order to replace decayed or otherwise traumatised teeth, it is necessary to modify the existing tooth or teeth so that crowns (caps) and/or bridges may be placed upon them. Tooth preparation will be done as conservatively as practical. In preparation of teeth, anaesthetics are usually needed. At times there may be swelling, jaw muscle tenderness or even a resultant numbness of the tongue, lips, teeth, jaws and/or facial tissues which is usually temporary, or very rarely, permanent.

### Sensitivity of teeth

Often, after the preparation of teeth or the reception of either crowns or bridges, the teeth may exhibit sensitivity. It may be mild to severe. This sensitivity may last only for a short period of time or may last for much longer periods. If it is persistent, notify your dental team because the sensitivity may have other causes.

### Crowned or bridge abutment teeth may require root canal treatment

Teeth, after being crowned, may develop a condition known as pulpitis or pulpal degeneration. The tooth or teeth may have been traumatised from an accident, deep decay, extensive preparation, or other causes. It is often necessary to do root canal treatment in these teeth. If teeth remain too sensitive for long periods of time following crowning, root canal treatment may be necessary. Infrequently, the tooth (teeth) may degenerate or otherwise not heal which may require root canal treatment, root surgery, or possibly extraction.



Call us on  
01542 886251

### Breakage

Crowns and bridges may possibly chip or break. Many factors could contribute to this situation such as chewing excessively hard materials, changes in biting forces, traumatic blows to the mouth, etc. Unobservable cracks may develop in crowns from these causes but the crowns/bridges may not actually break until chewing soft foods or possibly for no apparent reason. Breakage or chipping seldom occurs due to defective materials or construction unless it occurs soon after placement.

### Uncomfortable or strange feeling

This may occur because of the differences between natural teeth and the artificial replacements. Most patients usually become accustomed to this feeling in time. In limited situations, muscle soreness or tenderness of the jaw joints (TMJ) may persist for indeterminate periods of time following placement of the prosthesis.

Sometimes the contact between the bridge/crown and the opposing teeth needs to be adjusted.

### Aesthetics or appearance

Patients will be given the opportunity to observe the appearance of crowns or bridges in place prior to final cementation. Before cementation the fit and appearance of the crown/bridge will be assessed.

### Longevity of crowns and bridges

Crowns and bridges are as good or as strong as the supporting structure. Maintaining the health with excellent oral hygiene together with regular dental exam appointments is essential.

Because of this, no guarantees can be made or assumed to be made.



Call us on  
01542 886251

## Finding out more is easy...

To find out more, or to book in for a consultation, simply give us a call on the number below or email us:



t: 01542 886251

e: [info@keithdental.co.uk](mailto:info@keithdental.co.uk)

w: [www.keithdental.co.uk](http://www.keithdental.co.uk)