

Crowns and Bridges Post Operative Instructions

- A crown is a restoration used for a tooth that is decayed, fractured, or cracked beyond the point that a filling will be adequate to repair the tooth.
- A bridge is a replacement for a missing tooth or teeth that uses crowns on natural teeth or implants to support the missing tooth or teeth.
- Most often, a temporary crown or bridge is placed on prepared teeth during the period of time that a crown or bridge restoration is being made. A temporary protects the underlying tooth, and it holds the place and space necessary for the restoration. These are important functions, and temporaries should be kept on the prepared teeth.
- Temporaries are made of light weight materials. Therefore, be careful not to eat very hard or crunch foods with temporary teeth.
- Temporaries are placed with soft cement that allows them to be removed at a later appointment. It is possible to pull a temporary off a prepared tooth. Be careful with eating sticky foods. Be careful while flossing around temporary teeth. Pull the floss through the teeth from front to back to avoid any pulling action on the temporary.
- If a temporary comes off a tooth, 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 short-term cement. In an emergency situation, most pharmacies sell packets of temporary cement. NEVER use anything like Superglue to re-cement dental work!
- It is common to have some sensitivity with temporary crowns and bridges for a few days after they are placed. Extreme sensitivity or toothache that persists should be reported to the office.
- Warm salt water rinses can be used for several days after temporaries are placed to help sooth soreness in the gums.
- With the cementation of the final crown or bridge, again some sensitivity may occur for several days. Be careful to 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, it will important to maintain excellent home care to prevent dental disease from arising in the underlying teeth and gums. In addition, professional preventive care is a necessity!
- Should lingering sensitivity, pain, or chewing difficulties occur after an initial adjustment period for your new crown or bridge, please contact the office for instructions.