



DENTAL CROWNS

From the Office of Dr. Michael J. Guy 511A Lakeshore Drive, North Bay, P1A 2E3

What are crowns ?

A crown is a restoration that covers, or caps, a tooth to restore it to its normal shape and size. Crowns are made from a number of materials. Gold alloys or non-precious alloys, porcelain or ceramic, acrylic or composite resin or combinations of these materials may be used. Porcelain attached to a durable metal shell is commonly used because of its strength. Crowns made entirely of porcelain may look better; however, they usually are not as strong. In the process of making the crown, the porcelain is coloured to blend in with your natural teeth.



Full porcelain fused to metal



Full porcelain crown



Full cast alloy crown

Why do I need a crown?

There are two main reasons you need a crown: To strengthen and protect the remaining tooth structure and to improve the appearance of your teeth.

To improve your appearance:

Crowns are made of natural looking porcelain and are made to improve your overall smile or to blend in with your own teeth.

To strengthen structurally weakened teeth:

Teeth weaken due to:

- i. large fillings- where there exists more filling than tooth
- ii. Extensive decay.
- iii. Fractures
- iv. Root canal - After root canal, teeth tend to become brittle and are more apt to fracture. These teeth need to be protected by a crown.

Weakened teeth are prone to fracture and need the protection of a crown for these reasons:

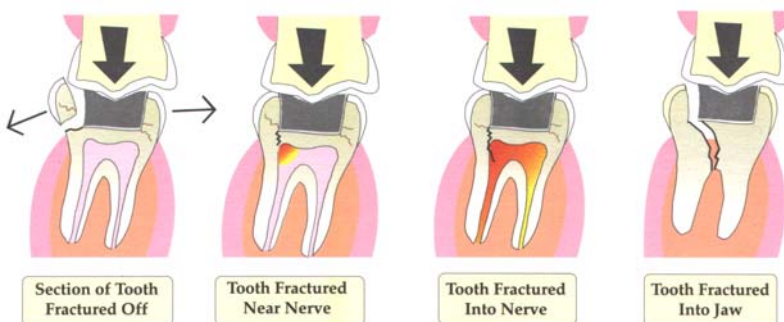
- Teeth flex outward under the forces of chewing or grinding.
- Teeth with large fillings flex more than teeth with smaller (or no) fillings.
- Tiny hairline cracks start to develop with the flexing.



- Over time the number of cracks increase and they get bigger. The tooth becomes structurally weak and prone to fracture.

When a tooth fractures, how it fractures and the treatment to fix it varies. How and when a tooth fractures is very unpredictable.

Possible ways a tooth can fracture



1. A cusp of the tooth can fracture above the gum-line. Tooth will require a crown to fix it.
2. A cusp of the tooth can fracture below the gum-line. Tooth will require crown lengthening and a crown to fix it.
3. The tooth can fracture near the nerve. A crack near the nerve may or may not be symptomatic, but it does affect the pulp. Tooth will require a crown to fix it, but may be very temperature sensitive.
4. The tooth can fracture into the nerve. A crack into the nerve will kill it. The tooth will require a root canal and a crown to fix it.
5. Tooth can fracture into the jaw. The tooth cannot be saved and would have to be removed

How is a crown placed?

Placing a crown requires at least two appointments. During your first visit, the tooth is prepared for the crown, an impression or mold is made of the tooth, and a temporary crown is placed over the prepared tooth. At the subsequent visit, the temporary crown is removed and the final crown is fitted and adjusted and cemented into place.

First Appointment

The first visit begins by giving you a local anesthetic. Once you are numb, Dr. Guy will prepare your tooth in a very specific way in order to maximize the retention and esthetics of your new crown. After the tooth is fully prepared, we proceed with the impression stage. An impression is made to provide an exact model of the prepared tooth. Dr. Guy uses a thin piece of retraction cord which is placed around your tooth in order to get the impression material under the gum where the crown ends. The small piece of cord is removed before the end of the visit. A dental laboratory technician, following the written instruction of Dr. Guy, will then make the crown from the model.



Prepared tooth



Crown placed over prepared tooth



Crown in place

Should you experience any discomfort you can take a mild analgesic (Tylenol™, Advil™, Anacin™, etc.) as long as there is no medical contraindication based upon your medical history. Typically, you can take anything you would normally take for a headache. If the discomfort persists, please call Dr. Guy at 476-5181.

Once the impression stage is completed, Dr. Guy will place a temporary (transitional) crown on your tooth. These plastic (acrylic) restorations are placed on teeth to protect them and the gum tissues between dental visits. The temporary cementing medium used is

designed to allow the easy removal of the temporary at your next scheduled visit.

Second Appointment

At that time, the temporary crown is removed and any temporary cement is cleaned from the prepared tooth. Dr. Guy will fit the final crown, check for accuracy, adjust for any bite discrepancies and evaluate the esthetics. If all of these factors are acceptable, the crown is cemented to your tooth. It is not unusual for the new crown to be mildly sensitive to cold temperatures for a few weeks. However, if the sensitivity is severe, does not subside, or if the bite feels uncomfortable, contact our office. Further adjustments to the crown may be necessary.

Care of your temporary crown:

Home care is extremely important while your temporary crown is in place. The health of your gum tissue and the success of your final treatment restoration depends upon it. PLEASE do not be afraid to clean your teeth between visits. With a minimal amount of home care, you should be able to maintain the continued health of your teeth and gum tissue during the time required to fabricate your new crown. Sometimes, even with meticulous care, temporary crowns or bridges may become loose between visits. If this should occur, please place the temporary crown back on your tooth

immediately. Putting a drop of Vaseline™ in the temporary crown or bridge will very often increase the retention and hold the temporary in place until you can schedule an appointment. Once again, REPLACING THE TEMPORARY CROWN IMMEDIATELY IS VERY IMPORTANT ! It only takes a short time for teeth to move if the temporary is not put back into its proper position. This could affect the final restoration significantly and may necessitate new impressions and a great deal of time. If you can not replace the temporary crown yourself, put it in a safe place and call the office. We will be happy to recement it for you at the earliest possible moment.

How much do crowns cost?

The average cost of a crown will range from \$800-900. Dental Benefits and eligibility will vary from one carrier to the next We will send a pre-determination to your dental benefits company to find this out.

PROCEDURE	CODE	FEE
PFM crown	27211	\$550-\$600
laboratory fee	99111	\$250-\$300
TOTAL		\$800-\$900

How do I take care of my crowns?

Brushing twice a day and cleaning between your teeth daily with floss or interdental cleaners (specially shaped brushes and sticks or picks) is especially important when you have crowns. These measures remove a sticky film of bacteria called plaque. It is especially important to remove plaque from the area where the gum meets the tooth (the sulcus). When plaque accumulates in the sulcus, it can cause dental decay or gum disease. To prevent damaging or fracturing the crowns, avoid chewing hard foods, ice or other hard objects. It is also important to visit your dentist regularly.