



SPECIALIZING IN SMILES

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Post-Operative Instructions: Temporary Dental Crown

How Should I Care for My Temporary Dental Crown?

Because temporary dental crowns are just that—a temporary fix until a permanent crown is ready, most dentists suggest that a few precautions be taken with your temporary crown. These include:

- Avoid sticky, chewy foods (i.e. chewing gum, caramel, etc.), which have the potential of grabbing and pulling off the crown.
- Minimize use of the side of your mouth with the temporary crown. Shift the bulk of your chewing to the other side of your mouth.
- Avoid chewing hard foods (i.e. Raw vegetables, etc.), which could dislodge or break the crown.
- Slide flossing material out, rather than lifting out, when cleaning your teeth. Lifting the floss out, as you normally would, might pull off the temporary crown.

What Problems Could Develop With a Dental Crown?

- **Discomfort or sensitivity:** Your newly crowned tooth may be sensitive immediately after the procedure as the anesthesia begins to wear off. If the tooth that has been crowned still have a nerve in it, you may experience some heat and cold sensitivity. Your dentist may recommend that you brush your teeth with toothpaste designed for sensitive teeth. Pain or sensitivity that occurs when you bite down usually means that the crown is too high on the tooth. If this is the case, call your dentist. He/she can easily fix this problem.
- **Chipped or loose crown:** Crowns made of all porcelain can sometimes chip. If the chip is small, a composite resin can be used to repair the chip with the crown remaining in your mouth. If the chipping is extensive, the crown may need to be replaced. Sometimes the cement washes out from under the crown. Not only does this allow the crown to become loose, it allows bacteria to leak in and cause decay to the tooth that remains. If your crown feels loose, contact your dentist's office.
- **Crown falls off:** Sometimes crowns fall off. Usually this is due to an improper fit or a lack of cement. If this happens, contact your dentist's office immediately. He or she will give you specific instructions on how to care for your tooth and crown for the day or until you can be seen for an evaluation. Your dentist may be able to re-cement your crown in place; if not, a new crown will need to be made.
- **Dark line on crowned tooth next to the gum line:** A dark line next to the gum line of your crowned tooth is normal, particularly if you have a porcelain-fused-to-metal crown. This dark line is simply the metal of the crown showing through.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.