

Crown & Bridge Treatment Frequently Asked Questions

What are crowns?

A crown is used to entirely cover or "cap" a damaged tooth. Besides strengthening a damaged tooth, a crown can be used to improve its appearance, shape or alignment.

What are bridges?

A bridge may be recommended if you're missing one or more teeth. Gaps left by missing teeth may eventually cause the remaining teeth to tip, rotate or shift into the empty spaces, resulting in a poor bite. They span the space where the teeth are missing. Bridges are cemented to the natural teeth or implants surrounding the empty space.

How long do crowns and bridges last?

While crowns and bridges can last a long time, they do sometimes become loose or fall out. A tooth underneath a crown or bridge may also break. To improve the longevity of your crown or bridge you should practice good oral hygiene to keep your gums and teeth healthy. A bridge can lose its support if the teeth or bone holding it in place are damaged by dental disease. Seeing your dentist for regular checkups and professional cleanings can reduce the risk of this happening.

What type of material are crowns and bridges made of?

Patients have a range of materials to choose from. These include porcelain bonded to metal, Emax, Zirconia, or all metal such as gold.

With porcelain bonded to metal, there is a metal base with porcelain coated on to this. The metal can sometimes show through the porcelain creating a darker appearance over time.

Emax crowns and bridges are made using a specialist ceramic material, and involve using the advanced Emax Press technique at manufacture.

Zirconia uses a different type of ceramic material, which is more hard wearing and durable than Emax crowns.