

CROWN/BRIDGE POST-OP INSTRUCTIONS

You've just had a tooth or teeth prepared for a crown or a bridge. You may still be numb from the anesthetic if one was used. Please do not eat on the treated side until the numbing wears off to avoid chewing on your cheek or lips.

TEMPORARY CROWNS: You probably have a temporary, acrylic crown on your tooth to protect it while the laboratory is making your new crown. Temporary crowns are more functional than esthetic. It's VERY important that your temporary crown remains in place during the next two to three weeks while the lab is making your permanent crown. The temporary crown reduces temperature sensitivity during this period, as well as protects the teeth from fracturing when you chew. Another important function of temporaries is to maintain the teeth's positions relative to one another. If your temporary remains off for even a few hours, teeth can shift just enough that your new crown or bridge may not fit properly. Also, gum tissue can rapidly grow up over the edge of the prepared tooth, requiring more work and possibly anesthetic at your next appointment.

If your temporary crown comes off during this period, please call and let us know as soon as possible so we can replace it for you. If the temporary won't stay on, try using a dab of toothpaste in the crown to act as a temporary adhesive until you can return to our office to have it re-cemented.

DISCOMFORT: Many crowns fit below the gumline. Therefore, you may experience some discomfort for a few days due to the irritation of the gum tissue during the procedure. Sensitivity to cold or pressure is also possible and fairly common during the temporary crown stage. However, severe discomfort, spontaneous pain or temperature sensitivity that lingers are symptoms that could indicate further treatment may be required before your new crown is cemented. Please call our office immediately if you experience such symptoms.

YOUR BITE: After the anesthetic wears off, it may take a few days to get used to the temporary crown or bridge. If you feel the bite is not correctly balanced, be sure to call our office immediately for a simple adjustment. If the temporary crown feels "high" to you, it's important to adjust it so that it doesn't cause the tooth to become sensitive.

HOME CARE: Proper care includes brushing, flossing and using an oral irrigator, such as a WaterPik®. Cavities can form around crowns and bridges if they are not properly cleaned each day. It will also be important that you avoid chewing any sticky or hard foods on the side of your crown to prevent the temporary from breaking or falling off.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE TO SPEAK WITH DR. RENO OR A STAFF MEMBER – WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HELP!