

# What Is a Crown?

A crown is a restoration that covers the entire visible portion of a tooth. It can also be referred to as a “cap”. Crowns serve an important dual purpose of **restoration and prevention**. They **restore function, strength, and esthetics** to broken or weak teeth, while also providing the **prevention of further breakdown or even loss of a tooth**.



## When does a tooth need a crown?

A tooth may need a crown when its structure has been greatly compromised by a large cavity or fracture and a filling is no longer a sound treatment option. Teeth that are symptomatic from a crack are also crowned to relieve pain and prevent further crack growth. Posterior teeth that have had root canal treatment are brittle and therefore crowned to protect the remaining tooth.

## What can be expected during the appointment?

Crowns are a two-appointment process. The 1<sup>st</sup> is the longer appointment of the two, usually lasting between one to one and a half hours. At this appointment, the area will be numbed. The tooth is then trimmed down on all sides to create room for the restoration. An impression is taken to send to the laboratory for fabrication of the permanent crown. A temporary crown is then made and cemented in place. During this time, it is advised to avoid chewing foods that are very hard or very sticky on that tooth.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment is scheduled around 2 weeks later. At this time, the temporary crown is removed and the new, permanent one is fitted into place. No anesthetic is typically needed, but it is available if desired. Once everything checks out with the crown, it is permanently cemented into place. You can then resume all normal eating and hygiene routines.



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS? PLEASE DO  
NOT HESITATE TO CALL OR EMAIL US!

(205)823-2355

JAMESAMPSONDMD@GMAIL.COM