



## DENTAL CROWNS & BRIDGES



### CROWNS

A crown (cap) is a dental restoration that is placed on a tooth that have lost a lot of its structure in order to protect it from fracture. Porcelain dental crowns replace the exterior portion of a tooth to re-establish its original function and to create a natural appearance. Crowns are the treatment of choice in situations where tooth decay has destroyed most of the original tooth, when a traumatic event has caused damage, or in cases of severe enamel erosion. They are also an option for people who grind and clench their teeth so much that the original structure of their teeth has been compromised.

Dental crowns can be sculpted to closely replicate the look of natural tooth enamel while providing desirable strength and resilience. Porcelain dental crowns are an excellent choice when recreating the form and function of a damaged tooth, because a crown basically replaces the entire external portion of the tooth down to the gum level. Crowns are not limited to simply replacing the original tooth but can be designed to create an even better esthetic appearance.

The great benefit of porcelain crowns is they can not only replicate the original tooth in function, but can be designed to look like the original or even better. When patients select a porcelain veneer for cosmetic reasons, they're usually covering up the front portion of the tooth that has some aesthetic flaw. A porcelain crown is thicker than a veneer and, in some situations, this thickness is needed.

### BRIDGES

A bridge is a dental restoration that is used to replace one or more missing teeth. They are designed to restore the missing gap to prevent the adjacent teeth from shifting and to restore proper occlusion and function. Like crowns, bridges are fully customizable and made of the same material.

Both crown and bridges are created to match the color, height, texture, and overall appearance of your teeth. They are both permanently bonded or glued to your teeth and can only be removed by your dentist. Most crowns and bridges will last for over 10-15 years, some even longer if properly cared for. The number one reason why crowns and bridges need to be replaced is because decay develops under them. You may prolong the durability and longevity of your crowns and bridges by practicing good oral hygiene and visiting your dentist for regular check-up, x-rays and cleaning.

If you would like more information about crowns and bridges or would like a free consultation, please call Smiles by Mia at (703) 323-1300 today!



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