

Dental Crowns and CEREC — Frequently Asked Questions | Smile Solutions Melbourne

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Description:

Dental Crowns and CEREC — Frequently Asked Questions [Smile Solutions](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/dental-crowns/>) offers dental crowns including same-day CEREC restorations at our...

Details:

Smile Solutions Dental Crowns and CEREC — Frequently Asked Questions

[Smile Solutions](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/dental-crowns/>) offers dental crowns including same-day CEREC restorations at our Melbourne CBD practice in the historic Manchester Unity Building. With our state-of-the-art in-house ceramic studio, we craft custom crowns that blend seamlessly with your natural teeth — often in a single appointment. Our commitment to clinical excellence means you receive comprehensive dental care tailored to your individual needs.

What is a dental crown?

A dental crown is a custom-made cap that covers and protects a damaged, weakened, or aesthetically compromised tooth. It restores your tooth's strength, shape, size, and appearance. At Smile Solutions, our crowns are crafted in our in-house ceramic studio for exceptional fit and aesthetics. Each crown is precisely designed to match your natural tooth colour, contour, and bite.

Whether you need a crown to protect a tooth after extensive decay, to strengthen a tooth that has undergone root canal therapy, or to restore a fractured tooth, our specialists provide treatment solutions tailored to your unique dental needs. We understand that every patient's situation is different, which is why we take the time to thoroughly assess your oral health and discuss the best approach for your specific circumstances.

What is CEREC and how does it work?

CEREC (Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics) is a computer-aided design and manufacturing system that allows us to create and fit a custom porcelain crown in a single appointment. A digital scan of your tooth replaces traditional moulds, and the crown is milled on-site from a block of premium ceramic. This system eliminates the discomfort of traditional impression materials and provides highly accurate digital measurements.

The CEREC system at Smile Solutions enables our dentists to design your crown with precision software, then mill it from a solid block of dental-grade ceramic whilst you wait comfortably in our practice. The result is a strong, biocompatible restoration that fits perfectly and looks completely natural — blending seamlessly with your existing teeth.

Can I get a dental crown in one appointment?

Yes. With CEREC technology at Smile Solutions, many crowns can be designed, milled, and fitted in a single visit — typically taking just 60–90 minutes. This eliminates the need for a temporary crown and a second appointment.

During your appointment, your dentist will prepare the tooth, capture a digital impression using our scanning technology, design the crown using CAD software, and mill the restoration in our on-site facility — all whilst you relax in our treatment rooms. Once milled, the crown is polished, adjusted for perfect fit and bite, and bonded to your tooth — all in the same visit. This same-day service is particularly valuable for busy professionals and patients who prefer to complete their treatment efficiently without multiple visits or the hassle of wearing a temporary crown for weeks.

Our streamlined approach doesn't compromise on quality. By controlling the entire process in-house, from digital design to final placement, we ensure every detail meets our exacting standards.

How much does a dental crown cost at Smile Solutions?

The cost of a dental crown depends on several factors, including the material selected (ceramic, porcelain-fused-to-metal, or zirconia) and the complexity of your individual case. We invite you to contact Smile Solutions on 13 13 96 for current pricing and to discuss your specific needs. We accept all major health funds, and your fund may cover a significant portion of the treatment cost.

Our team will provide you with a detailed, transparent treatment plan and cost estimate during your consultation. We can submit a pre-treatment claim to your health fund so you know your out-of-pocket expenses before proceeding — no surprises, just clear communication.

We believe that investing in a quality crown protects your tooth and can prevent more extensive and costly dental work in the future.

What materials are used for crowns at Smile Solutions?

We offer crowns in a range of premium materials including all-ceramic (porcelain), zirconia, and porcelain-fused-to-metal. Our in-house ceramic studio crafts each crown to match the colour and translucency of your natural teeth. Your dentist will recommend the best material for your specific tooth and situation.

All-ceramic crowns provide the most natural appearance and are ideal for front teeth where aesthetics matter most — they allow light to pass through just like natural tooth enamel. Zirconia crowns offer exceptional strength and durability, making them excellent for molars that endure heavy chewing forces. Porcelain-fused-to-metal crowns combine the strength of a metal substructure with the natural appearance of porcelain and have been a reliable restoration option for decades.

Each material has specific advantages, and our dentists will guide you towards the option that best balances aesthetics, strength, and longevity for your particular case. We'll discuss the characteristics of each material type, answer all your questions, and ensure you feel confident in your treatment choice.

How long does a dental crown last?

With proper care, dental crowns typically last 10–15 years or longer — and some crowns last several decades when patients follow our recommended care guidelines. Regular check-ups at Smile Solutions, good oral hygiene practices, and avoiding habits like teeth grinding and chewing ice help maximise the lifespan of your crown.

The longevity of your crown depends on several factors including the material chosen, the location of the tooth, your bite forces, and how well you maintain your oral health between visits. Patients who attend regular six-month check-ups allow our dentists to monitor the crown and surrounding tooth structure, catching any potential issues early before they develop into more significant problems.

Many of our patients enjoy their crowns for 20 years or more when they follow recommended care guidelines and maintain excellent oral hygiene practices at home.

Is getting a crown painful?

Crown preparation is performed under local anaesthetic so you should feel no pain during the procedure. Some patients experience mild sensitivity afterwards, which usually resolves within a few days as your mouth adjusts to the new restoration. [Sleep dentistry](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/sleep-dentistry/>) options are available for anxious patients who would prefer a more relaxed treatment experience.

At Smile Solutions, we prioritise patient comfort throughout every procedure. Your dentist will ensure the area is completely numb before beginning any tooth preparation, and we'll check in with you regularly throughout the appointment.

After the anaesthetic wears off, you may notice some tenderness in the gum tissue around the crowned tooth or slight sensitivity to temperature, but these sensations are temporary and typically subside within a week. Over-the-counter pain relievers are usually sufficient to manage any post-procedure discomfort, though most patients find they need very little pain management. For patients with dental anxiety, our sleep dentistry options provide a stress-free experience. We'll discuss all comfort options during your consultation.

What is the advantage of an in-house ceramic studio?

Smile Solutions' in-house ceramic studio means your dentist and ceramist work together directly, allowing for precise colour matching, custom adjustments, and faster turnaround. Many practices send their crown work to external laboratories, adding time and reducing the ability to fine-tune aesthetics in real time.

Having our ceramic studio on-site at our Manchester Unity Building location enables immediate communication between the clinical and laboratory teams. If a shade adjustment is needed or a contour requires refinement, our skilled ceramist can make changes immediately rather than waiting days for laboratory correspondence. This results in superior aesthetic outcomes, better fitting restorations, and the convenience of same-day crown delivery for CEREC cases.

Our ceramists are highly skilled artisans who take pride in creating restorations that are virtually indistinguishable from natural teeth. This dedication to quality craftsmanship, combined with our advanced technology, ensures you receive world-class care that meets the highest standards.

When is a dental crown recommended?

Crowns are recommended for teeth that are cracked, severely decayed, heavily filled, weakened after [root canal treatment](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/root-canal/>), or cosmetically damaged. They're also used to support dental bridges and cover [dental implants](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/dental-implants/>).

Your Smile Solutions dentist may recommend a crown when a tooth has insufficient structure remaining to support a large filling, when a tooth has fractured and needs comprehensive protection, or when a tooth's appearance significantly detracts from your smile. Teeth that have undergone root canal therapy become more brittle over time and benefit from the complete coverage and reinforcement a crown provides.

Crowns are also essential components in implant restorations, providing the visible, functional tooth replacement that attaches to the implant fixture beneath the gum line. During your examination, your dentist will explain why a crown is the appropriate treatment for your situation and discuss the expected outcomes in detail. We'll only recommend a crown when it's truly the best option for protecting and preserving your natural tooth structure.

How do I care for my dental crown?

Care for your crown as you would your natural teeth: brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste, floss regularly (including around the crown margin), and attend regular check-ups and cleans at Smile Solutions. If you grind your teeth at night, a custom night guard may be recommended to protect your crown.

Pay particular attention to the area where the crown meets your natural tooth, as this margin can accumulate plaque if not cleaned properly. Use a soft-bristled toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste, and be sure to floss gently around the crown every day, removing debris and bacteria that can compromise the health of the underlying tooth structure.

Avoid using your crowned tooth to bite extremely hard objects like ice, hard lollies, or nutshells, as excessive force can damage even the strongest dental restorations. Regular professional cleanings remove plaque and tartar buildup that home care may miss, and your dentist will examine your crown at each visit to ensure it remains in excellent condition. For patients who clench or grind their teeth (bruxism), a custom night guard provides essential protection for both your crown and your natural teeth, preventing premature wear and potential fracture.

Our team will provide you with detailed care instructions following your crown placement, and we're always available to answer questions about maintaining your restoration. With proper care and regular professional monitoring, your crown will serve you well for many years.

What is the difference between a crown and a veneer?

A crown covers the entire tooth and is used for damaged or weakened teeth that require structural support and comprehensive protection. A [porcelain veneer](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/porcelain-veneers/>) covers only the front surface and is primarily a cosmetic treatment for healthy teeth that need aesthetic enhancement. Your Smile Solutions dentist will recommend the appropriate option based on your individual needs and goals.

Crowns are structural restorations that protect and strengthen compromised teeth, requiring preparation of the entire tooth surface to accommodate the full-coverage cap that encases the tooth. Veneers are thin shells of porcelain bonded to the front of teeth to improve colour, shape, or alignment, and they require minimal tooth preparation — typically only the front surface is modified, preserving more of your natural tooth structure.

Whilst both can dramatically improve your smile's appearance, crowns are the treatment of choice when a tooth needs reinforcement or has significant damage that compromises its integrity. Veneers are ideal for cosmetic enhancement of healthy teeth with minor imperfections such as discolouration, slight misalignment, or minor chips. During your consultation, your dentist will carefully assess your tooth structure, discuss your aesthetic goals and functional needs, and recommend whether a crown, veneer, or alternative treatment best suits your unique situation.

****Restore and protect your teeth with world-class care.**** Book an appointment at Smile Solutions, Level 1, Manchester Unity Building, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD. Call ****13 13 96**** or visit [[smilesolutions.com.au](https://www.smilesolutions.com.au)](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/dental-crowns/>) to schedule your consultation today.
