

I've Been Told I Need a Crown - Understanding Your Options

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Description:

I've Been Told I Need a Crown - Understanding Your Options Being told you need a dental crown can feel overwhelming, especially when your dentist starts discussing materials, costs and timelines. T...

Details:

Being told you need a dental crown can feel overwhelming, especially when your dentist starts discussing materials, costs and timelines. This guide breaks down everything you need to know so you can make an informed decision with confidence.

Why Would You Need a Crown?

A crown is essentially a custom-made cap that fits over a damaged tooth, restoring its shape, strength and appearance. Your dentist may recommend one when a tooth has a large filling that compromises its structure, after root canal treatment, to protect a cracked or weakened tooth, or to restore a severely worn or broken tooth. Think of it as armour for a tooth that can no longer protect itself.

Choosing Your Material - Porcelain, Zirconia or Gold

Not all crowns are created equal, and the right material depends on where the crown sits in your mouth and what matters most to you.

****Porcelain**** remains the gold standard for front teeth. It mimics natural tooth translucency beautifully, making it virtually invisible. At Smile Solutions, the in-house Smile Lab - led by master ceramist Greg Karabasis - handcrafts porcelain restorations with exceptional artistry, matching colour and character to your surrounding teeth.

****Zirconia**** offers superior strength while still looking natural. It is ideal for back teeth that endure heavy chewing forces, and increasingly popular for front teeth as the material technology improves.

****Gold**** is the most durable option and remains an excellent choice for back teeth, particularly for patients who grind. While it lacks the cosmetic appeal of tooth-coloured options, nothing outlasts gold in the mouth.

The Same-Day Option - CEREC Technology

Traditional crowns require two appointments with a temporary crown in between. Smile Solutions also offers CEREC same-day crowns, where digital scanning, design and in-chair milling happen in a single visit. This is a convenient option for straightforward cases - your dentist will advise whether it suits your situation.

The Smile Lab Advantage

What sets Smile Solutions apart is the on-site Smile Lab. Rather than sending impressions to an external laboratory, your crown is crafted in-house by Greg Karabasis and his team. This means your dentist can collaborate directly with the ceramist - even bringing Greg chairside to assess shade and translucency. The result is a level of precision and artistry that external labs simply cannot replicate.

How Long Do Crowns Last?

With proper care, most crowns last 10 to 20 years, and many last significantly longer. Factors affecting longevity include material choice, your bite, grinding habits and oral hygiene. Regular check-ups help catch any issues early.

Cost Considerations

Crown costs vary depending on material and complexity. Your dentist will provide a clear treatment plan and quote before proceeding. Health fund rebates typically apply, and Smile Solutions offers payment plan options for those who need flexibility.

When Should You See a Specialist Prosthodontist?

For a single straightforward crown, your general dentist is well equipped to deliver an excellent result. However, if you need multiple crowns, a full-mouth reconstruction, or your bite needs to be rebuilt, a specialist prosthodontist provides the gold standard of care. Smile Solutions engages specialist prosthodontists who handle complex restorative cases daily - from implant-supported crowns to full rehabilitations involving precise bite adjustments. For complex work, the multi-specialist environment at Smile Solutions means your prosthodontist, ceramist and any other specialists involved collaborate seamlessly under one roof.

Your Next Step

If you have been told you need a crown, understanding your options is the first step toward a great outcome. Browse the [Smile Solutions directory](<https://directory.smilesolutions.com.au>) to learn more about the team, or contact the practice to book a consultation.