

Easy Answers about Root Canals and Crowns at Gateway Dental Arts



How do I know if I need a root canal?

It's best to visit your dentist, let him take x-rays, test the tooth, and then offer a professional assessment of your condition and options.

That said, you might need a root canal if the following apply:

- It hurts when you touch, push or bite down
- Your tooth is sensitive to heat or cold for more than a couple of seconds
- There is swelling near the tooth
- The tooth is discolored (whether it hurts or not)
- The tooth is broken

What is a root canal or root canal treatment?

A Root Canal is a dental procedure to fix an infected tooth by removing the pulp chamber and filling it with a replacement material. A root canal is generally performed when the infection and decay has reached the tooth's nerve.

Will a Root Canal painful?

With modern local anesthetics, the procedure is faster and more painless than ever before. If you're nervous at all, we suggest Conscious Sedation Dentistry, where you dream though the entire procedure, barely remembering your visit.

How much time will a root canal take?

It depends on the severity, but generally a single visit.

What additional dental work is needed for a tooth that has had root canal treatment?

After your tooth's root canal, your dentist can explain what additional dental work may be required to make the tooth fully functional again.

Often, in conjunction with a root canal, if the tooth is cracked or has portions missing, it's common for your dentist to recommend a crown.



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What is an Abscess?

An abscess is a localized collection of pus (infection) within a tissue or a confined space.

What is a dental crown? (also called a dental cap)

A dental crown is a custom porcelain restoration or cap that is made to encase or cap an existing tooth. A crown is generally used to a) strengthen a decayed tooth, b) repair a broken tooth, or c) improve the cosmetic appearance of the tooth.

What is the difference between a filling and a dental crown?

A filling covers only a portion of the tooth. A dental crown completely encases the visible area of the tooth, creating a brand new outer surface for your tooth.

What types of crowns do you recommend?

We use only permanent porcelain dental crowns. We believe they are far superior to ceramic, metal or partial metal products used by other dentists. Our all porcelain crowns will not only be permanent, they will look natural and beautiful.

Know that at Gateway Dental Arts, we have our own in-house lab and professional ceramist. While others are forced to rely on outside labs to have their crowns made (losing control over quality and fit), we custom make every crown to insure a perfect match in color and fit. Eric Newell, our ceramist, has won numerous awards for his work.

Does a Crowned Tooth Require Special Care?

A crowned tooth should be cared for just like any other tooth to protect the underlying tooth from decay or gum disease. Continue to follow good oral hygiene practices, including brushing your teeth at least twice a day and flossing once a day, especially around the crown area where the gum meets the tooth.



How Much Do Crowns Cost?

Generally, crowns can range in cost from \$500 to \$900 or more per crown. A portion of the cost of crowns is generally covered by insurance. To be certain, check with your dental insurance company.

Will my dental crown look and feel natural?

Yes. A porcelain dental crown looks and feels exactly like a real tooth, so nobody, including you, should be able to tell the difference. If anything, your new dental crown will enhance the look of your smile.

Do you have additional questions about root canals or crowns? Feel free to give us a call today.