Dental Crowns in Melbourne | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/cosmetic/dental-crowns/

Details:

A dental crown, also called a cap, is a fixed restoration that completely covers an existing tooth to strengthen it and improve its appearance. At Core Dental our dentists provide dental crowns at our practices across Melbourne, including CEREC same-day crown workflows at equipped practices. Whether a crown suits you depends on an examination, your dental history and your goals, and results vary for each person.

What is a dental crown?

A dental crown fits over the whole visible part of a tooth, like a cap. We use crowns to protect a tooth that is heavily filled, cracked, worn down or weakened, and to restore a tooth's shape, size and colour. A crown can also cover a dental implant that replaces a missing tooth. At Core Dental we start by examining the tooth and explaining what a crown is intended to achieve and what the alternatives are.

When might we recommend a crown instead of a veneer?

A veneer is a thin shell that covers the front of a tooth, and it needs enough healthy enamel to bond to. When there is not enough enamel to restore a tooth with a veneer, a crown may be used instead. We also consider a crown when a tooth has a cavity too large for a filling, or when a tooth has had root canal treatment and needs protection. You can read about the alternatives on our composite and porcelain veneers page.

Which situations may call for a crown?

Your dentist may suggest a crown if you have:

a cavity that is too large for a filling

a tooth that has had root canal treatment and needs protection

a tooth that is worn down, chipped or weakened

a discoloured or badly shaped tooth you would like to improve

a dental implant that needs a tooth-shaped restoration on top

too little enamel for a veneer or other options

What types of crown can you choose?

There are three main types, and we explain the benefits and limits of each before you decide.

Porcelain (ceramic) crowns, made from materials such as lithium disilicate or zirconia

Metal crowns, often made from a gold alloy

Porcelain-fused-to-metal (PFM) crowns, which combine a metal core with an outer layer of porcelain

Porcelain crowns are often chosen for front teeth. All-ceramic crowns are designed to resemble natural teeth in shape and colour. The right material depends on the position of the tooth, your bite, the amount of tooth structure left and your preferences.

How does the crown process work?

At the first visit your dentist prepares the damaged or root-filled tooth so the crown can fit and adhere. In the same visit we take impressions or digital records of your tooth. For a laboratory-made crown, these are sent to a dental laboratory, where your crown is made by hand. We place a temporary cap to protect your tooth in the meantime.

About two weeks later, we remove the temporary cap and fit your new crown. Before the crown is permanently secured, your dentist will try it on over your tooth, so you can tell us how it feels and looks.

At our practices with CEREC equipment, some crowns can be designed, milled and fitted in a single visit. We offer CEREC at Caroline Springs , Epping and South Melbourne . Not every tooth or situation suits a same-day crown, so ask your dentist whether it is an option for you.

What are the risks and limits of a crown?

Preparing a tooth for a crown removes some tooth structure, and this cannot be reversed. Teeth can be sensitive after preparation, and a crown can chip, loosen or need replacing over time. Crowns do not make a tooth immune to decay at the edges, so good brushing, cleaning between your teeth and regular check-ups remain important. Your dentist will explain the material risks and the likely maintenance before you decide.

How much do dental crowns cost, and how can you pay?

Fees depend on the tooth, the material, the number of visits and the dentist, so we give you a written treatment plan and quote before treatment starts. We offer interest-free payment plans through Payright for amounts up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months with fortnightly repayments, subject to eligibility and approval. HICAPS claiming is available on-site, and the rebate depends on your own health fund cover.

Where can you have a crown at Core Dental?

Our dentists provide crowns at our practices across Melbourne. You can find your nearest practice on our locations pages, including Southbank , Caroline Springs , Wyndham and Glenferrie . Call 13 13 16 to ask which practice suits you.

Who provides crowns at Core Dental?

Our general dentists plan and place crowns. Where a tooth needs specialist input, for example complex rehabilitation, we can involve a registered prosthodontist or other specialist. Learn more on our prosthodontist page and our dentists and registered specialists page.

Further detail from Core Dental

The following points are drawn from Core Dental's own published material on this topic. They are included here for completeness, and anything that applies to your own treatment should be confirmed

with your clinician.

Crowns can be used in restorations involving heavily repaired or broken teeth, discoloured fillings or a tooth needing protection following root canal therapy. Otherwise, tooth extraction, followed by placement of an implant, is advised. Your dentist will prepare and fix a temporary cap over the prepared tooth, significantly reducing the chances of sensitivity in the meantime. If properly maintained through good oral hygiene and regular dental check-ups, crowns can last for many years.

The material of your dental crown can affect the durability of your crown, but factors other than durability also need to be considered (such as aesthetics, survival rate and kindness to opposing teeth), so you are encouraged to discuss the different options with your dentist to choose the most suitable crown material. Because this process is irreversible, crowns are generally unsuitable for younger patients.

Who may prepare and fit a crown?

A crown permanently reshapes a tooth, so the question of who is doing it is a fair one to ask. There is no crown specialty and no separate registration for it; what governs the work is one standard that covers every procedure in dentistry.

The Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice registration standard applies to "all registered dental practitioners except those with student or non-practising registration", and sets out the rule in two parts: "dental practitioners must only perform dental treatment: a. for which they have been educated and trained, and b. in which they are competent."

The second limb does most of the work on crowns. Competence is assessed against the case in front of the practitioner rather than held as a general credential, and crown difficulty is highly case-dependent — how much sound tooth remains, whether the margin sits below the gum, how the opposing teeth load it, and whether the tooth has been root treated all change the problem.

Where a case is complex, the relevant specialty among the Board's thirteen is prosthodontics , concerned with restoring and replacing teeth. Specialist registration in it requires a qualification in the specialty, all the requirements for general registration as a dentist, and a minimum of two years general dental practice. Ahpra's register records the specialty of any dentist holding specialist registration, at ahpra.gov.au.

The standard also frames dentistry as team practice: all dental practitioners "are members of the healthcare team" and "are expected to work with other members of the healthcare team to provide the best possible care and outcome for their patients." And it limits delegation to the same boundary: a practitioner "must not direct any person whether a registered dental practitioner or not to undertake dental treatment or give advice outside that person's education or competence."

This is binding, not advisory. The Board notes the National Law "establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this registration standard, including that registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against health practitioners as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for the health profession (see section 41 of the National Law)." The standard itself is reviewed "at least every three years".

Sources: Dental Board of Australia, Scope of practice registration standard, dentalboard.gov.au (effective 1 July 2020); Dental Board of Australia, Specialist Registration, dentalboard.gov.au (page reviewed 18 March 2025). Both accessed 3 November 2026.

Why does the individual clinician matter more than the job title?

Because registration tells you the category and not the limits of what a particular person does.

The Dental Board is explicit about it in its guidance: scope of practice "depends on your education, qualifications, training, experience, and competence", with the consequence that "even within a

division, your scope may vary from another practitioner's. You should not rely on your scope being the same as a colleagues, as your training, experience and competence may be different from theirs."

Two general dentists with identical registration can therefore approach the same crown differently, and one may refer a case the other would treat. That is the standard working as designed rather than an inconsistency.

For a crown specifically, three questions get you most of the way.

How often do you do this, and on teeth like mine? Front teeth and heavily broken-down molars are different problems.

What would make you refer this case? A clear threshold indicates the judgement has been made deliberately.

What is the plan if the tooth turns out to be worse once the old filling is out? This is common, and knowing in advance whether that means a root canal, a post, or a different plan altogether avoids a decision made under pressure in the chair.

Source: Dental Board of Australia, Dental hygienist, dental therapist and oral health therapist, dentalboard.gov.au (page reviewed 18 March 2025; accessed 3 November 2026).

Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between a crown and a cap?

They are the same thing. A dental crown is often called a cap because it covers the whole visible part of the tooth. Your dentist will explain the material and process that suit your tooth.

Why are porcelain crowns often chosen for front teeth?

All-ceramic crowns are designed to resemble natural teeth in shape and colour, so they are a common choice for front teeth. Your dentist will advise whether porcelain suits your bite and tooth.

How long does it take to get a crown?

For a laboratory-made crown, there are usually two visits about two weeks apart, with a temporary cap in between. Some crowns can be made in one visit with CEREC at equipped practices, if suitable.

Will my temporary crown be comfortable?

A temporary cap protects your tooth while your crown is made. It may feel slightly different from a final crown. Contact us if it becomes loose, breaks or causes pain.

Is a crown the same as a veneer?

No. A veneer covers the front of a tooth and needs enough enamel to bond to. A crown covers the whole tooth, so it can be used when there is too little enamel for a veneer.

Is there a specialty for crowns?

No. A crown is a procedure rather than one of the thirteen specialties recognised by the Dental Board of Australia. Among those specialties, prosthodontics is the one concerned with restoring and replacing teeth. Who may provide a crown is governed by the Board's requirement that practitioners only perform

treatment for which they have been educated and trained and in which they are competent.

Do all general dentists approach a crown the same way?

Not necessarily. The Board states that scope of practice depends on education, qualifications, training, experience and competence, and that even within a division one practitioner's scope may differ from another's. One dentist may refer a case another would treat, which is the standard working as intended rather than an inconsistency.

What happens if the tooth is worse than expected once the old filling is out?

This is common enough to agree in advance. Ask whether it would mean a root canal, a post and core, or a different plan altogether, and what that does to the cost and the number of visits. Settling it beforehand avoids a decision made under pressure during the appointment.

What should I ask about my dentist's experience with crowns?

How often they do them and on teeth like yours — a front tooth and a heavily broken-down molar are different problems — and what would make them refer the case rather than treat it. The scope of practice standard requires them to have formed a view on their own competence for your case, so there is an answer to give.

Is the scope of practice standard enforceable?

Yes. The Board notes that the National Law establishes possible consequences for not meeting a registration standard, including that standards, codes and guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice, under section 41 of the National Law.

Related services and further reading

Cosmetic dentistry

Composite and porcelain veneers

Porcelain veneers

Composite veneers

Teeth whitening

Dental implants

Dental bridges

Root canal therapy

Dental payment plans

Understanding your treatment

Core Dental at a glance

Nine Core Dental clinics across Melbourne: Southbank, South Melbourne, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Wyndham, Berwick, Bayside and Glenferrie.

Open six days a week, with Monday to Friday hours to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings.

We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans.

CEREC same-day crown workflows at Caroline Springs, Epping and South Melbourne.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16
Booking	Online through your practice page, or call 13 13 16
Hours	Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, Saturday mornings, Sunday closed
Clinics	Find your nearest practice

Results, recovery times and potential risks vary for each individual. This information is general in nature and is intended for people over 18. Seek advice from a qualified, AHPRA-registered practitioner before proceeding.

What is a dental crown at Core Dental?

A dental crown, also called a cap, is a fixed restoration that completely covers a tooth to strengthen it and improve its appearance. Our dentists at Core Dental provide crowns after an examination that explains your options, risks and costs.

What materials are Core Dental crowns made from?

We offer porcelain or ceramic crowns made from materials such as lithium disilicate or zirconia, metal crowns often made from a gold alloy, and porcelain-fused-to-metal crowns. Your dentist will advise which material suits your tooth and bite.

When do Core Dental dentists use a crown instead of a veneer?

We may use a crown when there is not enough enamel to restore a tooth with a veneer. We also consider crowns for large cavities, root-filled teeth and worn, chipped or weakened teeth, after an examination.

How many visits does a laboratory-made crown take at Core Dental?

A laboratory-made crown usually takes two visits about two weeks apart. At the first, we prepare the tooth, take impressions and place a temporary cap. At the second, we try in and fit your new crown.

Which Core Dental practices offer CEREC same-day crowns?

CEREC same-day crown workflows are available at our Caroline Springs, Epping and South Melbourne practices. Not every tooth suits a same-day crown, so your dentist will advise whether it is an option for you.

Does Core Dental offer payment plans for crowns?

Yes. We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free Payright plans for amounts up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months, subject to eligibility and approval. HICAPS claiming is available on-site at our

practices.

Can a dental crown cover an implant?

Yes. A crown can be placed on a dental implant to replace the visible part of a missing tooth. We explain the stages, risks and costs of implant treatment and the crown before you decide.

How do I book a crown consultation at Core Dental?

Call us on 13 13 16 or book online through your preferred practice page. Tell the team about your concern, and we will arrange an examination so your dentist can explain whether a crown is suitable.