General Tooth Extraction Melbourne: What to Expect | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/general-dentistry/general-tooth-extraction/

Details:

A general tooth extraction is a dental procedure that removes a tooth from the mouth. At Core Dental it is a standard part of the general dentistry we provide at our practices across Melbourne. Where a tooth can reasonably be saved, our dentists will first discuss options such as root canal therapy or a restoration. Where it cannot, we explain the extraction, how we keep you comfortable, what to expect afterwards and your options for replacing the tooth. We quote before treatment starts.

When do we try to save a tooth instead of extracting it?

In most cases we would first look at saving a natural tooth, usually with root canal therapy or a restoration such as a filling or crown. An extraction is generally not recommended if the affected tooth has a good chance of being restored, or if creating a gap would be likely to cause significant problems, particularly for young people who have their adult teeth coming through. Our dentists examine the tooth, take images where clinically appropriate and explain your choices before anything is decided. See our pages on root canal therapy and fillings and restorations .

When might we recommend a tooth extraction?

Removal is most suitable where a tooth is beyond saving. We may recommend an extraction when:

there is severe damage, cracking or decay

restoration with a filling is unlikely to last

there is insufficient tooth structure to attach a crown

the gums are unhealthy and the tooth cannot be preserved

the tooth is very likely to fall out in the long term

there is a severe infection of the tooth or the surrounding gum

affordability is a key concern for you

space is needed before orthodontic braces treatment

Extraction generally provides immediate relief from pain and tends to be an affordable solution for immediate pain management. It also means a gap, so we will talk with you about whether and how to replace the tooth.

What is the extraction procedure?

Our dentists aim to make your extraction efficient and as comfortable as reasonably possible. The process is relatively straightforward.

We take steps to minimise discomfort. Options include analgesia, local anaesthetic, happy gas, sedation, or referral for a general anaesthetic. In every case the purpose is to ensure your comfort.

The tooth is then removed as gently as possible using specialised instruments. Occasionally we may divide the tooth into pieces or make a small incision in the gum. This is known as a surgical extraction.

Most extractions can be performed by one of our general dentists, with the exception of complex wisdom tooth extractions. For those, see our wisdom tooth extraction page. If you feel anxious, read about sleep dentistry and our article on what is involved in the tooth extraction procedure .

What should you do after an extraction?

In all cases we provide post-operative advice to help your recovery, and medication where necessary to control residual discomfort. Follow the written advice you are given, and contact us promptly if you have pain that is not settling, ongoing bleeding or signs of infection such as swelling or fever. Read more in our articles on recovery following teeth extractions and recovery after wisdom tooth extraction .

What are the risks and limits of an extraction?

Every extraction carries risks, which your dentist will explain for your tooth and your health. These can include pain, swelling, bleeding, infection, a dry socket where the healing clot is disturbed, and in some cases damage to nearby teeth or tissues. Recovery time varies with the tooth, the complexity of the extraction and your general health. Please tell us about your medical history and the medicines you take before treatment.

What are your options for replacing an extracted tooth?

Once a tooth is removed, you may wish to replace it to protect chewing, speech and the position of the other teeth. Options include a dental bridge , a dental implant or a removable denture. Your dentist can explain how each works, its limits and its costs. Our article on replacement options for missing teeth gives an overview.

How much does an extraction cost, and how can you pay?

Fees depend on the tooth, the complexity of the extraction, any sedation and the dentist, so we give you a written quote before treatment starts. Please confirm the current written terms, what a quoted figure includes and any health fund rebate before booking or paying, because fees can change.

We offer interest-free payment plans through Payright for amounts up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months with fortnightly instalments. Eligibility applies: you must be 18 or over, an Australian permanent resident, and able to provide ID and a verifiable email and mobile. Approval is not guaranteed. HICAPS claiming is available on-site, and any rebate depends on your own health fund cover. See our dental payment plans page.

How should you plan your visit?

A useful first step is to explain your concern, symptoms, timing and goals when you book. Bring relevant medical information and a current medicines list. Your dentist can then assess your teeth, gums, bite and surrounding tissues, request imaging when clinically appropriate and explain which options are suitable. Ask what the recommended approach is intended to achieve, whether there are reasonable alternatives, what preparation and aftercare involve and what risks or limitations apply. A written treatment plan helps you compare stages, appointments and payment arrangements.

Call 000 immediately for uncontrollable bleeding, difficulty breathing or swallowing, serious facial injury or other life-threatening symptoms. For severe tooth pain or swelling without these signs, call your

practice promptly. We reserve emergency appointments where possible, as described on our emergency dentistry page.

Where can you have a tooth extraction at Core Dental?

Extractions are offered as part of general dentistry at our practices across Melbourne, including Southbank , Caroline Springs , Glenferrie , Carrum Downs , Berwick and Epping . Call 13 13 16 to find the practice that suits you.

Who provides tooth extractions at Core Dental?

Our general dentists carry out most extractions. Where a case is complex, for example a difficult wisdom tooth, we may involve a registered oral and maxillofacial surgeon, and where a tooth might be saved we may involve a registered endodontist. See oral and maxillofacial surgery , endodontics and our dentists and registered specialists .

What decides whether a general dentist or a specialist removes a tooth?

The page above notes that some extractions go beyond general practice. The rule behind that is a single standard, and it is the same one for 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 requires that "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 is the one that does the work in extractions. Competence is assessed against the case in front of the practitioner, not held as a general credential — and extraction difficulty is notoriously case-specific. Root curvature, proximity to a nerve or a sinus, a tooth that has already fractured, dense bone, or a medical history affecting healing can each move a routine extraction into a different category, sometimes only once the procedure is under way.

The standard treats referral as ordinary practice rather than a shortfall. It describes all dental practitioners as "members of the healthcare team" who "are expected to work with other members of the healthcare team to provide the best possible care and outcome for their patients." It also 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."

The standard carries real weight. The Board notes that 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)." It also records that restricted dental acts, under section 121 of the National Law, apply to the definition of dentistry.

Where a case does warrant referral, two of the Board's thirteen recognised specialties are the surgical ones: oral surgery, and oral and maxillofacial surgery — the latter requiring qualifications in both medicine and dentistry and recognised by both the Dental Board of Australia and the Medical Board of Australia. Ahpra's register of dental practitioners records the specialty of any dentist holding specialist registration, so it can be confirmed at ahpra.gov.au.

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.

What if a tooth was lost to an injury rather than removed?

A tooth knocked out or badly damaged in an accident is a different situation from a planned extraction, and the difference is almost entirely about how quickly it is assessed.

The Australian Dental Association's position on managing oral injury is that "persons who have suffered oral injury should be promptly assessed by a dentist and be treated and reviewed as recommended by the dentist." Prompt assessment applies whether or not the injury looks serious: damage to a tooth's nerve or its supporting structures is frequently neither visible nor painful at first, and a tooth that seems intact can still need treatment.

The Australian Dental Association's reason for emphasising this is what the alternative costs: "oral damage is often irreversible, frequently complex, difficult, and costly to repair." For clinicians, it directs attention to the International Association of Dental Traumatology guidelines for managing traumatic dental injuries, noting that treatment should comply with local regulation.

The ADA also identifies who is most exposed, which is relevant to parents in particular: "young children and teenagers have been identified as high-risk groups, particularly when learning to walk and when new and/or high-risk activities are involved."

Source: Australian Dental Association, Policy Statement 2.2.5, ada.org.au (reviewed 19 April 2024; accessed 3 November 2026).

Frequently asked questions

Should we try to save a tooth before extracting it?

In most cases we would first try to save a natural tooth, usually with root canal therapy or a restoration. Your dentist will examine the tooth and explain whether saving it is realistic or whether extraction is the suitable option.

What options keep you comfortable during an extraction?

Options include analgesia, local anaesthetic, happy gas, sedation or referral for a general anaesthetic. Your dentist will discuss which suits you and your medical history before treatment.

What is a surgical extraction?

Occasionally we divide the tooth into pieces or make a small incision in the gum to remove it. This is called a surgical extraction, and your dentist will explain if it is likely to be needed for your tooth.

Can a general dentist remove wisdom teeth?

Most extractions can be done by our general dentists, but complex wisdom tooth extractions are the usual exception. Your dentist will examine and advise whether referral is suitable.

Is extraction suitable for children?

Extraction is generally not recommended if creating a gap would be likely to cause significant problems, particularly for young people with adult teeth. Your dentist will assess each case.

What rule decides whether an extraction is referred?

The Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice registration standard, which requires that practitioners only perform treatment for which they have been educated and trained and in which they are competent. Competence is assessed for the particular case, which is why extraction difficulty — root curvature, nerve or sinus proximity, a fractured tooth, dense bone, a medical history affecting healing — can change the answer for an individual tooth.

Is a referral a sign something has gone wrong?

No. The standard describes all dental practitioners as members of the healthcare team who are expected to work with other members of it to provide the best possible care and outcome for their patients. Referral is contemplated by the standard as ordinary practice.

Which specialties handle surgical extractions?

Two of the Board's thirteen recognised specialties are surgical: oral surgery, and oral and maxillofacial surgery. The latter is recognised by both the Dental Board of Australia and the Medical Board of Australia and requires qualifications in both medicine and dentistry. The Ahpra register at ahpra.gov.au records which registration a clinician holds.

My tooth was knocked out in an accident. How soon should I be seen?

Promptly. The Australian Dental Association's position is that a person who has suffered an oral injury should be promptly assessed by a dentist, then treated and reviewed as the dentist recommends. Damage to a tooth's nerve or supporting structures is often neither visible nor painful at first, so a tooth that looks intact can still need treatment.

Can a dentist delegate an extraction to a colleague?

Only within that colleague's own education and competence. The standard states that 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.

Related services and further reading

General dentistry

Wisdom tooth extraction

Root canal therapy

Fillings and restorations

Dental check-up

Dental hygiene

Emergency dentistry

Sleep dentistry

Dental implants

Dental bridges

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 reserve emergency appointments daily where possible, quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans.

HICAPS on-site claiming at our clinics.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16
Booking	Online through coredental.com.au, or call 13 13 16
Hours	Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, Saturday 8.00am to 1.30pm (Bayside Saturday 8.30am to 1.30pm), 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 general tooth extraction at Core Dental?

A general tooth extraction removes a tooth from the mouth. It is a standard part of the general dentistry Core Dental provides at our Melbourne practices, and our dentists first discuss whether the tooth can reasonably be saved.

When do Core Dental dentists recommend removing a tooth?

We may recommend extraction when a tooth is severely damaged, cracked or decayed, a filling is unlikely to last, there is too little tooth structure for a crown, gum health means it cannot be kept, or there is a severe infection.

How does Core Dental keep patients comfortable during an extraction?

Options include analgesia, local anaesthetic, happy gas, sedation or referral for a general anaesthetic. Core Dental dentists discuss the approach with you beforehand, and the aim in every case is your comfort.

What is a surgical extraction at Core Dental?

A surgical extraction is when our dentist divides the tooth into pieces or makes a small incision in the gum to remove it. It is only needed occasionally, and your Core Dental dentist will explain if it applies to you.

Which extractions may go beyond a general dentist at Core Dental?

Most extractions can be done by our general dentists. Complex wisdom tooth extractions are the usual exception, and Core Dental may refer these to a registered oral and maxillofacial surgeon after examining you.

What aftercare does Core Dental provide following an extraction?

We give post-operative advice to support your recovery, plus medication where necessary to control residual discomfort. Core Dental patients should call us promptly about worsening pain, ongoing bleeding or signs of infection.

Does Core Dental offer payment plans for extractions?

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

How do I book an extraction appointment at Core Dental?

Call Core Dental on 13 13 16 or book online through coredental.com.au. If you are in pain, say so when you call, because we reserve emergency appointments daily where possible.