

Dental Crowns and Bridges at Core Dental Berwick

Canonical:

<https://directory.coredental.com.au/dental-services/dental-crowns-and-bridges-at-core-dental-berwick-2-article/>

Description:

Dental Crowns and Bridges at Core Dental Berwick *Expert restorative dentistry that saves damaged teeth and replaces missing ones — from a team that's been trusted in the Berwick community for over...

Details:

Expert restorative dentistry that saves damaged teeth and replaces missing ones — from a team that's been trusted in the Berwick community for over a decade.

When a Filling Isn't Enough

There comes a point in the life of a damaged tooth where a filling can no longer do the job. The crack is too extensive. The decay has removed too much tooth structure. The old filling has been replaced so many times that there's more filling than tooth. A root canal has hollowed out the internal structure. At this point, trying to patch the tooth with yet another filling is like putting a Band-Aid on a structural problem — it might hold for a while, but it's not addressing the fundamental issue.

This is where dental crowns come in. A crown is a custom-made cap that covers the entire visible portion of a tooth, restoring its shape, strength, appearance, and function. It essentially becomes the new outer surface of the tooth, protecting the weakened structure underneath and distributing biting forces in a way that prevents further damage.

At Core Dental Berwick, we've been restoring damaged teeth with crowns and replacing missing teeth with bridges for over a decade. Our extended appointment slots allow our dentists to work with the care and precision these restorations demand, and our affiliation with the Smile Solutions group means you have access to specialist prosthodontists for the most complex cases.

Understanding Dental Crowns

What Is a Crown?

A dental crown is a tooth-shaped restoration that fits over a prepared tooth like a protective helmet. It covers everything from the gumline up, replacing the entire visible portion of the tooth. Once cemented in place, a well-made crown looks, feels, and functions like a natural tooth.

When Do You Need a Crown?

Your dentist may recommend a crown in several situations:

****Cracked or fractured tooth:**** Cracks that extend beyond what a filling can repair need a crown to hold the tooth together and prevent the crack from propagating deeper — potentially into the root, which would mean losing the tooth entirely.

****Extensive decay:**** When decay has destroyed a large portion of the tooth, there may not be enough healthy tooth structure remaining to support a filling. A crown covers and protects the entire tooth.

****After root canal treatment:**** Root canal therapy removes the nerve and blood supply from inside the tooth, which can make it more brittle over time. A crown protects the treated tooth from fracture.

****Large, failing fillings:**** If you have a large filling that's broken, cracked, or showing signs of secondary decay, a crown often provides a more durable, long-term solution than yet another filling.

****Cosmetic improvement:**** Crowns can improve the appearance of severely discoloured, misshapen, or structurally compromised teeth when other cosmetic approaches aren't sufficient.

****To support a bridge:**** Crowns on the teeth adjacent to a gap provide the anchor points for a dental bridge.

****Over a dental implant:**** After an implant post has integrated with the jawbone, a crown is placed on top to serve as the visible, functional tooth.

Crown Materials

Modern dental crowns are available in several materials, each with specific advantages:

****Porcelain (ceramic):**** The most aesthetically natural option. Porcelain crowns are made from dental-grade ceramic that closely mimics the colour, translucency, and light-reflecting properties of natural tooth enamel. They're the preferred choice for front teeth and for patients who prioritise a natural appearance. Modern porcelain materials — including lithium disilicate and zirconia-based ceramics — are also very strong, making them suitable for many back-tooth applications as well.

****Porcelain fused to metal (PFM):**** A metal core provides strength, with a porcelain outer layer providing aesthetics. PFM crowns are strong and versatile, though the metal substructure can sometimes create a dark line at the gumline over time, particularly as gums recede with age.

****Full zirconia:**** Zirconia is an extremely strong ceramic material that has become increasingly popular for posterior crowns. It provides excellent durability for back teeth where biting forces are highest, and modern zirconia can be layered or stained to achieve good aesthetics.

****Gold and metal alloys:**** Gold crowns are exceptionally durable and kind to opposing teeth. They're less popular than they once were due to aesthetic concerns, but for back teeth — particularly in patients with heavy bite forces — gold remains an excellent functional choice.

Your dentist will recommend the most appropriate material based on the tooth's location, the forces it bears, your aesthetic preferences, and your budget.

The Crown Process

Traditional Crown Process (Two Appointments)

****Appointment 1: Preparation and Impression****

Your dentist numbs the tooth with local anaesthesia and prepares it by reshaping the outer surfaces. This involves removing a thin layer of tooth structure (approximately 1–2mm) to create space for the crown to fit over the tooth without being bulky or interfering with your bite.

After preparation, a detailed impression is taken — either using traditional impression material or a digital intraoral scanner. This impression captures the exact shape of the prepared tooth, the neighbouring teeth, and the bite relationship, providing the dental laboratory with the information needed to fabricate a crown that fits precisely.

A temporary crown is fitted over the prepared tooth to protect it while the permanent crown is being made. Temporary crowns are functional but not as durable as the final restoration — you'll need to eat carefully and avoid very sticky or hard foods until the permanent crown is placed.

****Between appointments:**** The impression is sent to a dental laboratory, where a skilled technician fabricates your crown to precise specifications. This typically takes 1–2 weeks.

****Appointment 2: Fitting****

The temporary crown is removed, and the permanent crown is tried on the prepared tooth. Your dentist checks: - The fit against the tooth (precise seating with minimal gap) - The contact with neighbouring teeth (firm but comfortable) - The bite (the crown meets opposing teeth naturally) - The colour and appearance (blending seamlessly with surrounding teeth)

Once everything is confirmed, the crown is permanently cemented in place, and a final bite check ensures everything feels right.

Same-Day CEREC Crowns (One Appointment)

For patients who prefer the convenience of a single-visit restoration, our CEREC technology allows us to design, mill, and fit a custom porcelain crown in approximately 60–90 minutes. No temporary crown, no second appointment, no waiting. For full details on same-day crowns, see our dedicated CEREC page.

Understanding Dental Bridges

What Is a Bridge?

A dental bridge is a fixed restoration that replaces one or more missing teeth by anchoring artificial teeth (called pontics) to the natural teeth on either side of the gap. The anchor teeth are fitted with crowns, and the pontic teeth are suspended between them, spanning the gap.

Once cemented in place, a bridge is a permanent, non-removable restoration that looks and functions much like natural teeth.

When Do You Need a Bridge?

A bridge may be recommended when: - You have one or more missing teeth - The teeth on either side of the gap are healthy enough to support crowns - You want a fixed (non-removable) replacement that doesn't require surgery - You're not suitable for, or don't want, dental implants

Types of Bridges

****Traditional bridge:**** The most common type. Crowns are placed on the teeth on both sides of the gap (the abutment teeth), with one or more pontic teeth suspended between them. This type requires preparation (reshaping) of the abutment teeth.

****Cantilever bridge:**** The pontic is supported by a crown on one side only. This is used when there's only one suitable abutment tooth adjacent to the gap. Cantilever bridges work best for areas with lighter biting forces.

****Maryland bridge (resin-bonded bridge):**** The pontic is attached to the adjacent teeth using a metal or porcelain framework bonded to the backs of the neighbouring teeth, without the need for full crowns on the abutment teeth. This approach is more conservative (preserves more natural tooth structure) but is generally limited to front teeth with light biting forces.

The Bridge Process

The bridge process is similar to the crown process:

1. ****Preparation:**** The abutment teeth are prepared (reshaped) to receive crowns 2. ****Impression:**** A detailed impression captures the prepared teeth, the gap, and the surrounding anatomy 3. ****Temporary bridge:**** A temporary bridge is fitted while the permanent one is fabricated 4. ****Fitting:**** The permanent bridge is tried in, checked for fit, bite, and aesthetics, and cemented in place

Caring for a Bridge

Bridges require slightly more attention to oral hygiene than natural teeth. Because the pontic (artificial tooth) sits against the gum without a natural tooth root, plaque and food can accumulate underneath. You'll need to clean under the bridge daily using:

- **Floss threaders:** Specialised tools that allow you to pass floss under the bridge and clean the underside of the pontic and the gum beneath it
- **Interdental brushes:** Small brushes that fit between and under the bridge to remove plaque
- **Water flossers:** An effective alternative or supplement that uses a pressurised stream of water to clean around and under the bridge

Your dental hygienist Isabelle Sayers can demonstrate the best technique for cleaning your specific bridge at your next appointment.

Bridges vs Implants

Both bridges and implants replace missing teeth, but they work differently and have different advantages:

Factor	Bridge	Implant	Comparison	Surgery required	No	Yes (implant placement)
Adjacent teeth affected	Yes (must be reshaped for crowns)	No (standalone restoration)				
Treatment time	2–3 weeks	3–6 months (including healing)				
Longevity	10–15 years typically	Can last a lifetime with care				
Bone preservation	No (bone under the pontic continues to resorb)	Yes (implant stimulates bone)				
Cost	Generally lower	Generally higher				
Cleaning	Requires special floss threaders/techniques	Brush and floss like natural teeth				

Your dentist will discuss both options honestly, explaining the pros, cons, and long-term implications of each approach for your specific situation.

Caring for Crowns and Bridges

Daily Care

Crowns and bridges require the same care as natural teeth: - Brush twice daily with a soft-bristled toothbrush - Clean around and under bridges using floss threaders, interdental brushes, or a water flosser - Use fluoride toothpaste - Attend regular dental check-ups

What to Avoid

- Biting hard objects (ice, popcorn kernels, pens, bottle caps)
- Using teeth as tools (opening packaging, tearing tape)
- Very sticky foods that could pull at crowns or bridges
- Grinding or clenching — if you grind your teeth, a night guard will protect your restorations

Longevity

With proper care, dental crowns typically last 10–20 years, and many last significantly longer. Bridges have a similar lifespan. Regular check-ups allow your dentist to monitor your restorations, detect any issues early, and maximise their longevity.

Signs Your Crown or Bridge May Need Attention

Existing crowns and bridges require monitoring over time. See your dentist if you notice:

- **Sensitivity or pain** around a crowned tooth — this may indicate decay developing under the crown, or a crack in the underlying tooth
- **A dark line at the gumline** of a porcelain-fused-to-metal crown — this is the metal substructure becoming visible as the gum recedes. It's cosmetic rather than structural, but it may prompt a replacement if it bothers you
- **A crown that feels loose** or has a rocking sensation — the cement may be failing, or the underlying tooth may have changed shape
- **Food catching** around or under a bridge — this may indicate a gap has developed due to gum recession or

bone changes - ****A crack or chip**** in the porcelain — small chips can sometimes be polished, but larger damage may require replacement - ****Bite changes**** — if a crown feels different when you bite, or if it's hitting before the surrounding teeth, it may need adjustment

Early intervention when you notice these signs can often prevent more serious problems. A crown that's caught early when the cement is starting to fail can be re-cemented; left too long, decay can develop underneath, potentially compromising the tooth entirely.

The Extended Appointment Advantage

Crown and bridge work demands precision at every stage — from tooth preparation to impression to final fitting. At Core Dental Berwick, our extended appointment slots give your dentist the time to:

- Prepare the tooth carefully, preserving as much healthy tooth structure as possible
- Take meticulous impressions or digital scans that capture every detail
- Fit the final restoration without rushing, making micro-adjustments to contact, bite, and aesthetics until everything is right
- Explain the process, answer your questions, and ensure you're comfortable throughout

This unhurried approach is one of the reasons our Berwick practice is particularly popular with patients seeking complex restorative work. When you're investing in a restoration that needs to last a decade or more, the quality of the work matters — and quality takes time.

Health Fund and Payment Information

Preferred Provider Benefits

Core Dental Berwick is a preferred provider for CBHS, HCF, and NIB. For members of these funds, crowns and bridges are covered under major dental benefits, and preferred provider status typically means lower out-of-pocket costs.

HICAPS On-Site

We process health fund claims on the spot — tap your card and pay only the gap.

Payment Plans

Crowns and bridges represent a significant investment in your dental health — but they're far more cost-effective than the consequences of leaving damaged or missing teeth untreated. We offer interest-free payment plans through Payright (from \$1,000 to \$20,000 over 3–30 months) to make these essential treatments financially accessible.

Specialist Referral Access

For complex crown and bridge cases — such as full-mouth restorations, cases involving significant bite reconstruction, or situations where multiple implants and prosthetics are being coordinated — our connection to the Smile Solutions Collins Street Specialist Centre provides access to specialist prosthodontists. These specialists have completed additional years of postgraduate training in complex restorative dentistry and prosthetic rehabilitation.

Why Choose Core Dental Berwick?

****Over a decade of experience.**** Our Berwick team has been restoring teeth with crowns and bridges for more than ten years, with the clinical refinement that only comes from sustained practice.

****Extended appointment slots.**** Crown and bridge work demands time and precision. Our extended appointments give your dentist the space to work carefully without rushing.

****Same-day CEREC option.**** For eligible cases, get your crown designed, milled, and fitted in a single visit — no temporary crown, no second appointment.

****Specialist referral access.**** Complex cases can be referred to specialist prosthodontists at the Collins Street Specialist Centre.

****Convenient location.**** Eden Rise Village, Berwick — easy parking, central location, accessible from Narre Warren, Officer, Pakenham, Beaconsfield, and beyond.

****Affordable.**** CBHS, HCF, and NIB preferred provider. HICAPS on-site. Interest-free Payright payment plans.

Book Your Consultation

If you have a damaged tooth that needs protection, a failing restoration that needs attention, or missing teeth that need replacement, book a consultation at Core Dental Berwick. We'll assess your situation, explain your options clearly, and help you make an informed decision.

****Core Dental Berwick**** Shop 29, 1 O'Shea Rd, Berwick VIC 3806 Phone: (03) 9132 4160 National: 13 13 16 Email: berwick@coredental.com.au

Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday: 8:00 am – 1:30 pm Sunday: Closed