# Dental Crowns and Bridges at Core Dental Southbank

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## Description:

# Dental Crowns and Bridges at Core Dental Southbank **Category:** Dental Services **Target Word Count:** 2,800 words --- ## Restore Damaged and Missing Teeth with Crowns and Bridges When a tooth ...

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## Restore Damaged and Missing Teeth with Crowns and Bridges

When a tooth is significantly damaged — by decay, fracture, wear, or a failed filling — a standard filling may no longer be enough to restore it. That's 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, function and appearance.

When a tooth is missing entirely, a dental bridge can fill the gap using the teeth on either side as anchors, giving you back your ability to chew, speak and smile without a visible space.

At Core Dental Southbank, we provide both crowns and bridges as part of our comprehensive restorative dental services. Whether you need to protect a weakened tooth, replace a missing one, or restore your confidence in your smile, our team at 55 City Road has the expertise and technology to deliver results that look and feel natural.

With CEREC same-day crown technology available for eligible cases, direct referral to specialists at the Collins Street Specialist Centre for complex restorative work, and flexible payment options including interest-free plans, Core Dental Southbank makes high-quality restorative dentistry accessible and convenient.

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## What Is a Dental Crown?

A dental crown — sometimes called a cap — is a custom-made restoration that fits over the entire visible part of a tooth, from the biting surface down to the gumline. It completely encases the tooth, providing structural reinforcement and restoring the tooth to its original (or improved) shape and appearance.

### When Is a Crown Needed?

Crowns are one of the most common restorative procedures in dentistry. Your dentist may recommend a crown when:

- **A tooth is extensively decayed** — When decay is too large for a filling to adequately restore the tooth's strength and shape - **A tooth is cracked or fractured** — A crown holds the remaining tooth structure together and prevents the crack from spreading, which could lead to the tooth splitting and requiring extraction - **After root canal treatment** — Root-canal-treated teeth lose moisture over time and become more brittle. A crown protects the tooth from fracture and restores full function - **A large existing filling has failed** — When a filling breaks down or the surrounding tooth structure fractures, a crown provides a more durable long-term restoration - **A tooth is severely worn** — From grinding (bruxism), erosion or age-related wear, crowns rebuild the tooth to its proper height and shape - **For cosmetic improvement** — Crowns can improve the appearance of severely discoloured, misshapen or poorly aligned teeth - **To support a dental bridge** — The teeth on either side of a gap are crowned to anchor a bridge - **Over a dental implant** — A crown is the visible restoration placed on top of an implant abutment

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## Types of Dental Crowns

The material used for your crown affects its appearance, durability, cost and suitability for different positions in the mouth.

### Porcelain (All-Ceramic) Crowns

Porcelain crowns are made entirely from dental ceramic, with no metal substructure. They offer the best aesthetics and are the preferred choice for front teeth and visible areas.

- **Superior aesthetics** — Porcelain mimics the translucency and colour of natural tooth enamel, making these crowns virtually indistinguishable from natural teeth - **Biocompatible** — Porcelain is well tolerated by gum tissue and doesn't cause the dark line at the gum margin that can occur with metal-based crowns - **Metal-free** — Suitable for patients with metal sensitivities - **Modern strength** — Advanced ceramics like lithium disilicate (e.g., IPS e.max) and zirconia-reinforced ceramics have significantly improved the strength of all-ceramic crowns

### Zirconia Crowns

Zirconia is a type of ceramic that offers exceptional strength — approaching that of metal — while still providing good aesthetics.

- **Extremely strong and durable** — Ideal for back teeth (molars and premolars) where biting forces are highest - **Good aesthetics** — While not as translucent as lithium disilicate, modern zirconia can be layered or stained to achieve a natural appearance - **Versatile** — Suitable for both front and back teeth, and for patients who grind their teeth - **Conservative preparation** — Zirconia's strength means less tooth structure needs to be removed in some cases

### Porcelain-Fused-to-Metal (PFM) Crowns

PFM crowns have a metal substructure covered with a layer of porcelain. They were the standard for decades and still have a role in certain situations.

- **Strong and durable** — The metal core provides excellent strength - **Reasonable aesthetics** — The porcelain outer layer provides a natural appearance, though it may not match the translucency of all-ceramic crowns - **Dark line risk** — Over time, as gums recede, a dark line may become visible at the gum margin where the metal substructure meets the tooth - **Proven track record** — PFM crowns have been used successfully for decades

### Gold and Metal Alloy Crowns

Full metal crowns (gold or base metal alloy) are sometimes used for back teeth that aren't visible when you smile.

- **Extremely durable** — Metal crowns can withstand heavy biting forces and last for decades - **Minimal tooth removal** — Metal crowns can be made thinner than porcelain, requiring less tooth preparation - **Not tooth-coloured** — The metallic appearance makes them unsuitable for visible teeth for most patients - **Gold biocompatibility** — Gold is exceptionally well tolerated by gum tissue

### Choosing the Right Material

Your dentist at Core Dental Southbank will recommend the most appropriate crown material based on:

- The location of the tooth (front vs back) - The biting forces the crown will need to withstand - Your aesthetic preferences - Whether you grind your teeth (bruxism) - The amount of remaining tooth structure - Your budget

During your consultation, your dentist will explain the options available for your specific situation, including the pros and cons of each material, and help you make an informed choice. There's no one-size-fits-all answer — the best crown material for a front tooth is different from the best choice for a heavily loaded back molar.

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## CEREC Same-Day Crowns

Core Dental Southbank offers **CEREC (Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics)** technology, which allows certain crowns to be designed, milled and fitted in a single appointment.

### How CEREC Works

1. **Digital scan** — Instead of traditional putty impressions, your dentist takes a digital 3D scan of the prepared tooth using an intraoral camera 2. **Computer-aided design** — The crown is designed on screen using CEREC software, with precise customisation of shape, size and bite 3. **In-office milling** — A block of high-quality dental ceramic is milled into the finished crown by a compact milling machine right in the practice 4. **Same-day fitting** — The crown is bonded to your tooth the same day — no temporary crown, no second appointment, no waiting for a dental laboratory

### Advantages of CEREC

- **Single visit** — No need to wear a temporary crown for one to two weeks while a laboratory fabricates the permanent crown - **No impressions** — The digital scan is more comfortable than traditional impression trays - **High-quality ceramics** — CEREC crowns are milled from proven dental ceramic blocks with excellent strength and aesthetics - **Time savings** — Particularly valuable for busy professionals who want to minimise dental appointments

### When Traditional Lab-Made Crowns May Be Preferred

While CEREC is excellent for many cases, traditional laboratory-made crowns may be preferred when:

- Complex colour matching or layering is needed (such as for a single front tooth that needs to blend perfectly with adjacent teeth) - Multiple crowns are being placed simultaneously - The case involves unusual anatomy or challenging preparations - The patient prefers a specific material not available in CEREC block form - A full-contour zirconia crown is needed for a high-stress posterior tooth

Your dentist will recommend the best approach for your specific situation and explain the pros and cons of each option clearly.

### CEREC for Busy Professionals

For Southbank's professional population, the appeal of a same-day crown is obvious. Instead of taking two half-days off work for a traditional two-appointment crown, you can have the entire procedure completed in a single visit — often within 90 minutes to two hours. You leave with a permanent,

high-quality ceramic crown, with no need for a temporary and no second appointment.

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## The Crown Procedure (Traditional)

For crowns fabricated by a dental laboratory, the process typically involves two appointments:

### Appointment 1: Preparation

1. **Anaesthesia** — Local anaesthetic is administered to ensure comfort 2. **Tooth preparation** — Your dentist carefully reshapes the tooth, removing a thin layer of structure from all surfaces to create space for the crown. The amount removed depends on the crown material being used 3. **Impressions** — Digital or physical impressions are taken of the prepared tooth and the opposing teeth 4. **Shade matching** — The colour of the crown is carefully matched to your natural teeth 5. **Temporary crown** — A temporary acrylic crown is placed to protect the prepared tooth while the permanent crown is being fabricated by the laboratory (typically one to two weeks)

### Appointment 2: Fitting

1. **Temporary crown removal** — The temporary crown is removed 2. **Try-in** — The permanent crown is tried on the tooth. Your dentist checks the fit, bite, contacts with adjacent teeth, and colour match 3. **Adjustments** — Any necessary adjustments are made to achieve a precise fit 4. **Cementation** — Once you and your dentist are satisfied, the crown is permanently cemented

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## What Is a Dental Bridge?

A dental bridge is a fixed prosthetic that replaces one or more missing teeth by anchoring to the natural teeth on either side of the gap. The anchoring teeth (called abutments) are crowned, and the replacement tooth or teeth (called pontics) are suspended between them, filling the gap.

### Types of Bridges

**Traditional bridge** — The most common type. Crowns on the teeth either side of the gap support one or more pontic teeth between them. Requires preparation (reshaping) of the adjacent teeth.

**Cantilever bridge** — Supported by a crown on only one adjacent tooth rather than both. Used in specific situations where only one abutment tooth is available or suitable.

**Maryland bridge (resin-bonded bridge)** — Uses metal or ceramic wings bonded to the back surfaces of adjacent teeth, without requiring full crowns on those teeth. Less invasive but also less retentive — suitable for front teeth with light biting forces.

**Implant-supported bridge** — Instead of anchoring to natural teeth, the bridge is supported by dental implants. This avoids modifying healthy adjacent teeth and provides excellent stability. For implant-supported bridges, we refer to the Collins Street Specialist Centre for implant placement.

### When Is a Bridge Recommended?

A bridge may be recommended when:

- One or more adjacent teeth are missing - The teeth on either side of the gap are healthy enough to support crowns (or already have crowns) - The patient prefers a fixed, non-removable restoration - Implants are not suitable or preferred

### Bridges vs Implants

Both bridges and implants effectively replace missing teeth, but they differ in important ways:

| Factor | Dental Bridge | Dental Implant | |--------|--------------|----------------| | Adjacent teeth | Requires preparation of neighbouring teeth | No effect on adjacent teeth | | Bone preservation | Does not prevent bone loss in the gap | Preserves jawbone through stimulation | | Longevity | Typically 10–15 years | Implant can last a lifetime; crown 10–20 years | | Treatment time | Usually completed in 2–3 weeks | 4–9 months (including healing) | | Cost | Generally lower upfront cost | Higher upfront cost; may be more cost-effective long-term | | Surgery | No surgery required | Minor surgical procedure for implant placement |

Your dentist will discuss both options with you and help you decide based on your clinical situation, preferences and budget. In some cases, an implant-supported bridge may be the ideal solution — avoiding the need to modify healthy adjacent teeth while still providing a fixed, permanent restoration. We can refer to the Collins Street Specialist Centre for implant assessment and placement if this is the preferred approach.

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## How Long Do Crowns and Bridges Last?

With proper care, dental crowns and bridges are long-lasting restorations:

- **Porcelain and zirconia crowns** — Typically last 10 to 20 years or more - **PFM crowns** — Typically last 10 to 15 years or more - **Gold crowns** — Can last 20 to 30 years or more - **Dental bridges** — Typically last 10 to 15 years, depending on the health of the supporting teeth and the patient's oral hygiene

Factors that affect longevity include:

- **Oral hygiene** — Decay can develop at the margin where the crown meets the tooth if plaque is allowed to accumulate - **Grinding (bruxism)** — Heavy grinding can crack or wear down crowns. A night splint is recommended for patients who grind - **Diet** — Biting on very hard objects (ice, hard lollies, popcorn kernels) can damage crowns - **Regular dental check-ups** — Your dentist monitors the crown's integrity, the health of the underlying tooth, and the gum tissue at each visit - **Quality of the original preparation and cementation** — A well-prepared, well-fitted and properly cemented crown will last significantly longer than one that's rushed or poorly executed

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## Caring for Crowns and Bridges

Crowned teeth and bridges require the same care as natural teeth — with a few additional considerations:

- **Brush twice daily** with a soft-bristled toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste, paying attention to the gumline where the crown meets the tooth - **Floss daily** — For bridges, use a floss threader or superfloss to clean underneath the pontic (the replacement tooth) where it sits against the gum - **Avoid hard foods** that could crack or chip the crown material - **Wear a night splint** if you grind your teeth — ask your dentist at Core Dental Southbank about a custom-fitted occlusal splint - **Attend regular check-ups** so your dentist can monitor the crown, bridge, underlying teeth and surrounding gum tissue

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## Cost of Crowns and Bridges

The cost of dental crowns and bridges varies depending on the material, the number of teeth involved, and the complexity of the case. Your dentist at Core Dental Southbank will provide a detailed, itemised treatment plan before any work begins.

### Making Treatment Affordable

- **HICAPS on-site** — We process health fund claims on the spot, so your rebate is applied immediately - **Preferred provider for HCF, CBHS and NIB** — Members may receive higher rebates and lower gap payments - **Interest-free payment plans** — Payright plans from 3 to 30 months, covering treatments between $1,000 and $20,000, with no interest charges - **Transparent pricing** — No hidden fees. You'll know the full cost before treatment begins

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## Specialist Referral for Complex Cases

Most crown and bridge work is performed by your general dentist at Core Dental Southbank. However, some situations benefit from specialist involvement, and as part of the Smile Solutions group, we have direct referral pathways to the Collins Street Specialist Centre at the Manchester Unity Building:

- **Complex prosthodontic cases** — Full-mouth rehabilitation, extensive bridgework, or cases requiring precise aesthetic outcomes may be referred to a prosthodontist. These specialists have advanced training in restoring and replacing teeth and managing the most complex restorative scenarios - **Implant-supported restorations** — When an implant-supported crown or bridge is the best option, the surgical component (implant placement) is managed by oral surgeons or specialist prosthodontists at the Collins Street Specialist Centre, while the crown or bridge is designed and fitted at Core Dental Southbank or by the specialist - **Teeth requiring root canal treatment** — If a tooth needs root canal treatment before being crowned, complex cases (such as curved canals, retreatments or teeth with unusual anatomy) can be referred to an endodontist for the highest chance of success

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## Book Your Consultation

If you have a damaged, weakened or missing tooth, a crown or bridge may be the ideal solution. Book a consultation at Core Dental Southbank and let us assess your needs.

**Core Dental Southbank** 55 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006

**Phone:** (03) 8547 0780 **National Bookings:** 13 13 16 **Email:** southbank@coredental.com.au

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

Our dentists will examine your teeth, discuss your options — including same-day CEREC crowns where appropriate — and provide a clear treatment plan with transparent pricing. Whether you need a single crown to save a damaged tooth or a bridge to replace a gap in your smile, we're here to help you restore function, comfort and confidence.