

Dental Crowns and Bridges at Core Dental Wyndham

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Description:

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

Details:

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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 Wyndham, we provide both crowns and bridges as part of our comprehensive restorative dental services. Located at 242 Hoppers Lane in Werribee, we're equipped with CEREC same-day crown technology, an in-house Smile Lab, and the clinical expertise to deliver restorations that look and feel natural — for patients across Hoppers Crossing, Tarneit, Point Cook, Wyndham Vale, Manor Lakes and Truganina.

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

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 high-strength ceramic that offers an excellent combination of durability and aesthetics.

- **Extremely strong** — Zirconia is one of the strongest dental ceramics available, making it suitable for back teeth (molars) that bear significant chewing forces - **Good aesthetics** — Modern zirconia can be layered with porcelain or milled in multi-layered blanks that replicate natural tooth colour gradients - **Biocompatible** — Well tolerated by gum tissue - **Versatile** — Suitable for both front and back teeth, single crowns and bridges

Porcelain-Fused-to-Metal (PFM) Crowns

PFM crowns have a metal substructure covered with a layer of porcelain. They combine the strength of metal with the appearance of porcelain.

- **Strong and durable** — The metal substructure provides excellent structural support - **Acceptable aesthetics** — The porcelain exterior provides a tooth-like appearance, though the metal layer can sometimes create a dark line at the gum margin, particularly as gums recede over time - **Cost-effective** — Generally less expensive than all-ceramic options - **Being superseded** — As ceramic technology has improved, PFM crowns are less commonly recommended than they once were, but they remain a reliable option in many situations

Gold Crowns

Gold alloy crowns are the most durable crown material and are exceptionally kind to opposing teeth, causing less wear than other materials.

- **Outstanding durability** — Gold crowns can last decades with proper care - **Excellent fit** — Gold can be cast with extreme precision, producing margins that fit tightly against the tooth - **Gentle on opposing teeth** — Gold wears at a similar rate to natural enamel, making it the kindest material for the teeth that bite against the crown - **Excellent for grinders** — For patients with bruxism (teeth

grinding), gold's resilience and gentleness on opposing teeth make it an outstanding choice for back molars - ****Not tooth-coloured**** — The metallic appearance makes gold crowns unsuitable for visible teeth for most patients, but they remain an excellent choice for back teeth where strength and longevity are prioritised over aesthetics

Choosing the Right Material

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

- ****Position of the tooth**** — Front teeth need the best aesthetics (porcelain or lithium disilicate); back teeth need the most strength (zirconia or gold) - ****Bite forces**** — Heavy grinders need durable materials that can withstand significant loads - ****Opposing teeth**** — The material should be compatible with what it bites against - ****Aesthetic goals**** — How visible the tooth is when you smile and talk - ****Budget**** — Different materials have different costs, and your dentist will present options at various price points - ****Allergies or sensitivities**** — Metal-free options are available for patients with metal sensitivities

The Crown Process

Traditional Crown Process (Two Visits)

****Visit 1: Preparation and Impressions**** 1. Your dentist numbs the area with local anaesthesia 2. The tooth is prepared (shaped) by removing a thin layer of tooth structure all around to create space for the crown 3. A digital scan or impression of the prepared tooth is taken 4. A temporary crown is placed to protect the tooth while your permanent crown is being made 5. The scan or impression is sent to the laboratory (or our Smile Lab) for fabrication

****Visit 2: Fitting (1–2 weeks later)**** 1. The temporary crown is removed 2. The permanent crown is tried in, and the fit, bite and colour are checked 3. Once you and your dentist are satisfied, the crown is permanently cemented

Same-Day CEREC Crowns (One Visit)

Core Dental Wyndham is equipped with ****CEREC**** (Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics) technology, which can design, mill and fit a permanent ceramic crown in a single appointment. For a detailed overview of the CEREC process, see our dedicated article on same-day CEREC crowns.

The Smile Lab Advantage

Core Dental's ****Smile Lab**** is an in-house dental laboratory where crowns, bridges, veneers and other restorations are crafted by ceramists who work directly within the Core Dental group. This direct communication between your dentist and the ceramist producing your restoration means:

- ****Better colour matching**** — The ceramist can work closely with your dentist to achieve precise colour and translucency - ****Better fit**** — Direct communication allows for fine adjustments throughout the fabrication process - ****Faster turnaround**** — No reliance on external commercial labs, which can mean shorter wait times

What Is a Dental Bridge?

A dental bridge replaces one or more missing teeth by anchoring artificial teeth (pontics) to the natural teeth on either side of the gap. The anchor teeth are crowned, and the replacement teeth are attached between them, bridging the gap.

Types of Bridges

Traditional Fixed Bridge

The most common type. The teeth on either side of the gap (abutment teeth) are prepared and crowned, and the replacement tooth (or teeth) is suspended between them. The bridge is cemented permanently and is not removable.

Cantilever Bridge

A cantilever bridge is anchored to teeth on one side only. It's used when there are teeth on only one side of the gap, or when the clinical situation makes a cantilever design more appropriate.

Implant-Supported Bridge

Instead of using natural teeth as anchors, an implant-supported bridge uses dental implants. This is ideal when the adjacent teeth are healthy and shouldn't be modified, or when multiple teeth are missing in a row.

When Is a Bridge Recommended?

Your dentist may recommend a bridge when:

- One or more adjacent teeth are missing - The teeth on either side of the gap are strong enough to support the bridge (and may already need crowns themselves) - You want a fixed, non-removable replacement - Dental implants are not suitable or preferred

Bridge vs Implant

Both bridges and implants are effective ways to replace missing teeth, but they have different advantages:

- ****Implants**** preserve bone in the gap area and don't require modification of adjacent teeth, but involve surgery and a longer treatment timeline - ****Bridges**** can be completed in as few as two appointments without surgery, but require the adjacent teeth to be prepared (filed down and crowned) - ****Longevity**** — Implants typically last longer than bridges, particularly when the supporting teeth are healthy and wouldn't otherwise need crowns - ****Cost**** — Bridges are often less expensive upfront than implants, but implants may prove more cost-effective over a lifetime due to their longer lifespan and the preservation of adjacent tooth structure

Your dentist at Core Dental Wyndham will discuss both options in detail and help you decide which is best for your situation, taking into account the health of your adjacent teeth, your budget, and your long-term goals.

The Bridge Process

Getting a dental bridge typically involves two appointments:

****Visit 1: Preparation**** 1. The abutment teeth (the teeth on either side of the gap) are prepared by removing a thin layer of tooth structure to make room for the crowns 2. A digital scan or impression is taken of the prepared teeth, the gap, and the opposing teeth 3. The scan or impression is sent to the laboratory (or our Smile Lab) for bridge fabrication 4. A temporary bridge is placed to protect the prepared teeth and fill the gap while the permanent bridge is being made

****Visit 2: Fitting (1–2 weeks later)**** 1. The temporary bridge is removed 2. The permanent bridge is tried in and the fit, bite, colour and aesthetics are carefully checked 3. Once everything is satisfactory, the bridge is permanently cemented

With our in-house Smile Lab, turnaround times between visits are often shorter than practices that send work to external commercial laboratories.

Caring for Crowns and Bridges

With proper care, crowns and bridges can last many years — often a decade or more. Here's how to look after them:

- **Brush twice daily** — Pay particular attention to the gumline where the crown meets the natural tooth
- **Floss daily** — For bridges, use a floss threader or specialised bridge floss to clean under the pontic (replacement tooth) where food and bacteria can accumulate
- **Avoid excessive force** — Don't use your teeth to open packaging, crack nuts, or chew ice. While crowns are strong, they can fracture under extreme force
- **Wear a night guard if you grind** — Bruxism is one of the leading causes of crown and bridge failure. If you grind your teeth, a custom night guard protects your restorations and natural teeth alike
- **Regular check-ups** — Your dentist will check the integrity of your crowns and bridges at every visit, catching any issues before they become problems

How Long Do Crowns and Bridges Last?

The lifespan of a crown or bridge depends on the material, the quality of the restoration, and how well you care for it:

- **Porcelain and zirconia crowns** — Typically 10 to 20 years or more
- **Gold crowns** — Often 20 years or longer
- **PFM crowns** — Typically 10 to 15 years
- **Bridges** — Typically 10 to 15 years, depending on the health of the supporting teeth

The most common reasons for crown or bridge failure are:

- Decay developing at the margin where the crown meets the natural tooth (preventable with good oral hygiene)
- Fracture of the crown material (less common with modern ceramics)
- Failure of the cement bond
- Gum disease affecting the supporting teeth

Regular check-ups catch these issues early, often allowing repair or replacement before the underlying tooth is compromised.

Crowns and Bridges for Wyndham Families

As one of Melbourne's fastest-growing communities, Wyndham has a diverse population with a wide range of dental needs. Whether it's a young parent in Tarneit who has cracked a molar, an older resident in Werribee whose bridge needs replacing, or a professional in Point Cook who wants to restore a front tooth to its best possible appearance, Core Dental Wyndham has the technology, materials and clinical expertise to deliver the right solution.

Our CEREC same-day crown capability is particularly valuable for busy families — getting a permanent crown in a single visit means one less appointment to organise around work, school and everything else. And with our Smile Lab producing restorations in-house, turnaround times for traditional crowns and bridges are faster than practices that rely on external commercial laboratories.

With on-site parking, ground-floor access, and Saturday morning appointments, we're designed to be accessible for families across the Wyndham corridor.

Cost and Payment Options

The cost of crowns and bridges varies depending on the material chosen, the complexity of the case, and whether preparatory treatment (such as root canal therapy or gum treatment) is needed.

Your dentist will provide a detailed quote before any treatment begins, so you know exactly what to expect.

Health Fund Rebates

Many private health funds provide rebates for crowns and bridges under major dental or restorative cover. Core Dental Wyndham is a **preferred provider for HCF, CBHS and NIB**, and members of these funds may receive higher rebates and lower out-of-pocket costs. We process claims on-site via **HICAPS** for immediate rebates.

Payment Plans

For treatment that involves significant cost, we offer interest-free payment plans through **Payright**, with plans from 3 to 30 months for treatments between \$1,000 and \$20,000.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does getting a crown hurt?

The procedure is performed under local anaesthesia, so you won't feel pain during tooth preparation. Some patients experience mild sensitivity for a few days after the crown is placed, which typically resolves on its own.

Can a crown fall off?

It's uncommon, but crowns can occasionally come loose — usually due to cement failure or decay under the crown. If this happens, contact us promptly. In many cases, the crown can be cleaned and re-cemented.

What's the difference between a crown and a veneer?

A veneer covers only the front surface of a tooth (like a fingernail), while a crown covers the entire tooth. Veneers are primarily cosmetic and are used on teeth that are structurally sound; crowns are used when a tooth needs structural reinforcement.

Can I get a crown on a baby tooth?

Yes, stainless steel crowns are sometimes used on children's baby teeth when a tooth has extensive decay but needs to remain in place until the permanent tooth erupts.

How do I choose between a CEREC crown and a lab-made crown?

Both produce excellent results. CEREC offers the convenience of a single appointment, while lab-made crowns (particularly those from our Smile Lab) may be preferred for complex aesthetic cases where layered porcelain achieves the most natural appearance. Your dentist will recommend the best option for your specific tooth and situation.

Book Your Appointment

If you have a damaged or missing tooth that needs attention, book an appointment at Core Dental Wyndham. Our team will assess your situation, explain your options, and recommend the best approach for a durable, natural-looking result.

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

Whether you need a single crown or a multi-tooth bridge, we have the technology, the expertise and the in-house laboratory to deliver results you can trust.