

Same-Day CEREC Crowns at Core Dental Wyndham

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Description:

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Details:

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A Permanent Crown in a Single Appointment

Traditionally, getting a dental crown has meant at least two appointments spread over one to two weeks — one to prepare the tooth and fit a temporary crown, another to fit the permanent one. In between, you wait with a temporary that can feel awkward, come loose, or limit what you eat.

CEREC changes that. At Core Dental Wyndham, we use CEREC (Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics) technology to design, mill and fit a permanent ceramic crown in a single visit. No temporary crown, no second appointment, no waiting. You arrive with a damaged tooth and leave with a permanent, tooth-coloured restoration — all in around one to two hours.

For busy families in Hoppers Crossing, Tarneit, Point Cook and across the Wyndham area, where juggling work, school runs and appointments is a daily challenge, the practical value of a one-visit crown is significant. Located at 242 Hoppers Lane in Werribee with on-site parking, Core Dental Wyndham makes the process as convenient as it is efficient.

What Is CEREC?

CEREC is a computer-aided design and manufacturing system (CAD/CAM) used in dentistry to create ceramic restorations chairside — meaning right there in the treatment room, while you wait.

The system has three components:

1. **3D digital scanner** — Captures a detailed digital impression of your prepared tooth and surrounding teeth. No messy impression trays or putty.
2. **CAD software** — Your dentist uses specialised software to design the crown on screen, customising the shape, size, contacts and bite to fit perfectly with your natural teeth.
3. **Milling unit** — A precision milling machine carves your crown from a solid block of dental ceramic in approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

The result is a custom crown, designed specifically for your tooth, fabricated from high-quality ceramic — all completed within the practice during your appointment.

The CEREC Process: Step by Step

Step 1: Preparation

Your dentist numbs the area with local anaesthesia and prepares (shapes) the tooth, removing any decay and creating space for the crown. This step is the same as for a traditional crown.

Step 2: Digital Scanning

Instead of biting into a tray of impression material, your dentist uses a small handheld 3D scanner to capture a precise digital image of the prepared tooth and the surrounding teeth. The scan takes just a few minutes and is comfortable — no gagging, no mess.

The digital scan is displayed on a screen in the treatment room, creating an accurate 3D model of your teeth.

Step 3: Crown Design

Using CEREC's CAD software, your dentist designs your crown on screen. The software uses the digital scan to calculate the ideal shape, taking into account:

- The shape and contours of the prepared tooth
- The adjacent teeth (so the crown fits naturally alongside them)
- The opposing teeth (so the bite is accurate)
- The contact points (so the crown sits properly against the teeth on either side)

Your dentist can fine-tune the design, adjusting the shape, size and contours to achieve the best possible result. This is where clinical experience and aesthetic judgement come into play — the software provides the framework, but the dentist's eye guides the final design.

Step 4: Milling

Once the design is finalised, the data is sent to the CEREC milling unit in the practice. A block of high-quality dental ceramic — matched to the colour of your natural teeth — is loaded into the mill. The machine carves the crown with diamond-coated instruments, typically completing the process in 10 to 15 minutes.

While the crown is being milled, you can relax in the chair, check your phone, or simply take a break.

Step 5: Fitting and Bonding

After milling, your dentist tries the crown on the prepared tooth, checking the fit, bite, colour and overall appearance. Any minor adjustments are made chairside.

The crown is then polished (or glazed and fired, depending on the ceramic used) and permanently bonded to the tooth using dental cement. Final adjustments to the bite are made, and the crown is polished smooth.

You leave with a permanent restoration. No temporary, no return visit.

What CEREC Crowns Are Made From

CEREC crowns are milled from solid blocks of dental ceramic. The most commonly used materials include:

Lithium Disilicate (e.g., IPS e.max)

A glass ceramic known for its excellent combination of strength and aesthetics. Lithium disilicate is highly translucent, mimicking the light-transmitting properties of natural tooth enamel, and is strong enough for both front and back teeth.

- **Best aesthetics** — Natural translucency and colour matching - **Good strength** — Suitable for most single-tooth restorations - **Ideal for** — Front teeth and premolars where appearance is a priority

Zirconia

A high-strength ceramic that offers outstanding durability. Modern milling-grade zirconia comes in multi-layered blanks with colour gradients that replicate the natural transition from the darker root area to the lighter, more translucent biting edge.

- **Exceptional strength** — The strongest ceramic available for dental restorations - **Improving aesthetics** — Modern zirconia is significantly more natural-looking than earlier generations - **Ideal for** — Back teeth (molars) that bear heavy chewing forces, and situations where maximum strength is needed

Hybrid Ceramics (e.g., VITA Enamic)

A combination of ceramic and polymer that offers a degree of flexibility, mimicking the elasticity of natural tooth structure. Hybrid ceramics are less brittle than pure ceramics and can be particularly useful for patients who grind their teeth.

- **Resilient** — Less prone to chipping than pure ceramic in certain situations - **Tooth-friendly** — The slight flexibility reduces stress on the underlying tooth structure and on opposing teeth - **Ideal for** — Patients with bruxism (grinding) or thin enamel

Your dentist will recommend the most appropriate material based on the position of the tooth, the forces it will bear, and the aesthetic requirements.

When Is a CEREC Crown Appropriate?

CEREC crowns are suitable for most situations where a traditional crown would be recommended:

- **Teeth with extensive decay** that can't be adequately restored with a filling - **Cracked or fractured teeth** that need structural reinforcement - **Teeth after root canal treatment** that require protection - **Large, failing fillings** that need to be replaced with a more durable restoration - **Teeth broken in an emergency** — CEREC's same-day capability is particularly valuable in emergencies, where patients can receive a permanent crown the same day rather than wearing a temporary for weeks - **Cosmetic improvement** of severely discoloured or misshapen teeth

When a Lab-Made Crown May Be Preferred

While CEREC technology is excellent for most crowns, there are situations where a lab-made crown — crafted by the ceramists at Core Dental's in-house Smile Lab — may produce a better result:

- **Complex anterior aesthetics** — For front teeth where the most natural appearance is critical, a skilled ceramist can layer porcelain by hand to achieve subtle colour variations, translucency gradients and surface textures that are difficult to replicate with milled ceramic alone - **Multi-unit bridges** — While CEREC can mill individual crowns, larger bridges may be better fabricated in the lab - **Highly customised restorations** — Cases requiring precise colour matching to unusual or heavily characterised natural teeth - **Implant crowns** — Some implant systems require lab-fabricated components

Your dentist at Core Dental Wyndham will recommend the best approach for your specific tooth and situation — whether that's CEREC for same-day convenience or a Smile Lab restoration for maximum customisation.

CEREC vs Traditional Crowns

Feature	CEREC Crown	Traditional Crown
Appointments	One	Two (typically 1–2 weeks apart)
Temporary crown needed	No	Yes
Impression method	Digital scan (comfortable)	Digital scan or physical impression
Fabrication time	Same day (10–15 minutes milling)	1–2 weeks at the lab
Material options	High-quality dental ceramics	Full range including ceramics, gold, PFM
Aesthetics	Excellent	Excellent (lab crowns can offer more customisation for complex aesthetic cases)
Accuracy	Very high (digital workflow)	Very high (depends on impression quality and lab precision)
Cost	Comparable to traditional crowns	Comparable to CEREC crowns

For most patients, the deciding factor is convenience. A single-visit crown means one appointment, one round of anaesthesia, and no temporary crown to manage.

CEREC Inlays and Onlays

CEREC isn't limited to full crowns. The technology is also used to create ceramic **inlays** and **onlays** — precision restorations for teeth that are too damaged for a standard filling but don't need the full coverage of a crown.

What's the Difference?

- **Inlay** — Fits within the cusps (raised points) of a back tooth, replacing the damaged portion of the chewing surface - **Onlay** — Extends over one or more cusps, providing more coverage than an inlay but less than a full crown

Both are milled from the same high-quality dental ceramics as CEREC crowns, and both can be completed in a single visit. They're an excellent conservative option — preserving more natural tooth structure than a crown while providing superior strength and longevity compared to a large composite filling.

For teeth with moderate damage — a cracked cusp, a large failing filling, or decay that's too extensive for a filling but hasn't compromised the entire tooth — a CEREC inlay or onlay is often the ideal solution.

Advantages of CEREC for Wyndham Families

The practical benefits of same-day crowns are particularly relevant for the communities we serve:

- **One appointment instead of two** — For working parents in Tarneit, tradies in Hoppers Crossing, or anyone with a packed schedule, eliminating a second appointment is a genuine time-saver
- **No temporary crown** — Temporary crowns can come loose, fall off, or feel uncomfortable. CEREC skips this step entirely
- **No second round of anaesthesia** — One injection, one procedure, done
- **Immediate result** — You leave with a permanent restoration you can eat on immediately (with care)
- **Emergency capability** — If you break a tooth, CEREC means we may be able to restore it permanently on the same day rather than fitting a temporary and booking a follow-up
- **On-site parking** — Drop in, get your crown, get on with your day

Caring for Your CEREC Crown

A CEREC crown is cared for exactly like a traditional crown — because it is a permanent crown, just fabricated faster.

- **Brush twice daily** — Pay attention to the gumline where the crown meets the natural tooth - **Floss daily** — Including around the crowned tooth - **Avoid excessive force** — Don't use your teeth to open packaging, bite pens, or chew ice - **Wear a night guard if you grind** — Bruxism can damage any crown, CEREC or otherwise - **Regular check-ups** — Your dentist will check the crown's integrity at every visit

How Long Do CEREC Crowns Last?

With proper care, CEREC crowns last as long as traditional lab-made crowns — typically **10 to 20 years or more**, depending on the material, the location of the tooth, and your oral hygiene and habits. Studies consistently show that CEREC restorations perform comparably to lab-fabricated crowns in terms of longevity and clinical success.

Cost and Payment Options

CEREC crowns are priced comparably to traditional lab-made crowns. The technology doesn't add a premium — it simply delivers the result faster.

Health Fund Rebates

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

Payment Plans

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

Are CEREC crowns as good as lab-made crowns?

Yes. Extensive clinical research supports the long-term performance of CEREC crowns. They're made from the same high-quality dental ceramics used in lab-fabricated crowns, and studies show comparable longevity and clinical success. For complex anterior aesthetics, a lab-made crown may offer slightly more customisation, but for the vast majority of cases, CEREC crowns deliver excellent results.

How long does a CEREC appointment take?

Typically one to two hours from start to finish, including preparation, scanning, design, milling and fitting. The milling itself takes about 10 to 15 minutes.

Does it hurt?

The procedure is performed under local anaesthesia, so you won't feel pain. The experience is very similar to having a traditional crown prepared — the difference is you leave with the finished result.

Can CEREC be used for fillings too?

Yes. CEREC can also be used to create ceramic inlays and onlays — precision restorations that are larger than a filling but don't require full crown coverage. These are an excellent option for teeth with moderate damage where a filling isn't strong enough but a full crown isn't necessary.

What if I need a crown on a front tooth?

CEREC crowns can look excellent on front teeth, particularly when made from lithium disilicate ceramic. For cases requiring the most detailed aesthetic customisation, your dentist may recommend a Smile Lab crown, where the ceramist can layer porcelain by hand for the most lifelike result.

Is CEREC new technology?

No. CEREC has been used in dentistry since the late 1980s and has been refined through multiple generations. The current system represents over three decades of development, with extensive clinical research supporting its long-term performance. Millions of CEREC restorations have been placed worldwide.

Can CEREC be used for veneers?

Yes. CEREC can mill porcelain veneers, though for highly customised anterior aesthetics, lab-fabricated veneers may be preferred. Your dentist will recommend the best approach based on your specific case.

What if my CEREC crown doesn't match my other teeth in colour?

The ceramic blocks used for CEREC crowns come in a comprehensive shade range, and your dentist will select the block that best matches your natural teeth before milling begins. After milling, the crown can be characterised with surface stains and glazes to fine-tune the colour match. In the vast majority of cases, the result blends seamlessly with surrounding teeth.

Book Your Appointment

If you need a crown and want the convenience of same-day treatment, book an appointment at Core Dental Wyndham. Our CEREC technology means one visit, one crown, one result — with no compromise on quality.

****Core Dental Wyndham**** 242 Hoppers Lane, Werribee VIC 3030

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

Call us to find out if a same-day CEREC crown is the right option for your tooth.