

Crown and Bridge

If you have a tooth which has been broken or missing a portion due to decay (cavities) or trauma, a crown may be needed to maintain your tooth. If you have a space due to a tooth being removed and have teeth on either side of this space, we can make you a bridge so you can have adequate chewing. Dr. Faucette or Dr. Petty will prepare the tooth (or teeth) for a crown or bridge and place a temporary over the tooth (teeth) for you to wear while your custom restoration is being made at our laboratory. Our laboratory requires 2- 3 weeks to create your new tooth or bridge.

Temporary cement is used to cement your temporary crown or bridge so we can easily remove it at your next appointment. We ask for you not to chew gum or anything sticky (taffy, caramel, jolly ranchers, nuts or ice) during the time you are wearing your temporary. You will be able to brush your teeth as you normally do, but when flossing, it is better to pull the floss through between your temporary and your natural teeth instead of lifting the floss up. If you accidentally pull off the temporary, we will need to see you to re-cement it until your crown is back from the laboratory. If your crown or bridge comes off and the office is closed, you can put the temporary back on yourself, by using denture adhesive or temporary adhesive sold at the drug store. Please do not allow the temporary to remain off more than a couple of days as this will allow the remaining teeth to start to shift and the permanent crown will not fit properly.

It is normal for the gum tissue around the tooth (teeth) to be sensitive and irritated, you may rinse with warm salt water. We recommend you take Advil (Ibuprofen) or whatever medication you take for a headache before the numbness wears off and if you have any discomfort. If the temporary feels like it is high, please contact our office so we may adjust the temporary.

Implant Crowns

Dental implants can replace missing teeth without damaging or connecting to adjacent teeth. The dental implant system consists of three parts: the implant body, the abutment which holds the crown to the implant body, and the crown which is the tooth-shaped covering that is seen in the mouth.

After the implant body has been placed and its integration into the bone is confirmed (4-6-month healing process), an impression will be taken at Cottonwood Park Dental. The custom abutment and crown will be fabricated at an off-site dental laboratory which usually takes 2 weeks. In most cases anesthesia is not needed for the impression, or seating of the implant crown. Once the crown is made at the lab, the crown is adjusted for the proper fit, and then either cemented or screwed into place. Since the implant body does not have the same sensory function as natural teeth, the implant crown no longer can detect light biting forces and may need time to get use to the pressure to prevent damaging contacting teeth. It is important to maintain proper hygiene around the dental implant to avoid gum disease which in severe cases can cause the implant to fail.