



SAME DAY VS. TRADITIONAL

CROWNS

Which is the better choice?

PRESENTED BY

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What is a dental crown & why do I need one?

A dental crown is a hard, protective covering for a tooth. It improves or restore the tooth's shape and strength, while improving its appearance and utility in daily activities, like eating and talking.

You may need a dental crown if you have:



Types of materials: Do they matter?

Most patients don't even consider asking about the type of material being used for crowns, but crowns do come in a variety of materials including:

- ✓ resin
- ✓ pre-made stainless steel
- ✓ gold alloy
- ✓ porcelain fused to metal
- ✓ zirconium
- ✓ other materials

It's important to discuss what your dentist offers and why he/she is recommending one over the others. There are many differences.

The main areas impacted by each type of material are:

specific medical concerns - like allergies to metal.

longevity/durability - the difference between 1-2 or 35-40 years!

aesthetics - light refraction, color choices & how visible it will be.

preservation - of the tooth itself & the surrounding teeth.

overall cost - not just financial, but the long range outcome.



Never get a pre-made stainless steel crown

(unless you meet this one requirement.)

Dental crowns are placed over what's left of the natural tooth. The intent is to preserve what's left, prevent additional decay or damage, and restore the tooth to full functionality.

Some patients might be tempted to use a pre-made stainless steel crown because the tooth in question isn't highly visible or they are trying to keep the cost as low as possible.

While a pre-made stainless steel crown works well for baby teeth, it is not recommended for adult teeth.

Pre-made stainless steel crowns don't fit tightly to the tooth structure (the space called the "margin"), which a dentist accounts for by using a temporary cement adhesive to fill in the gaps. It doesn't take very long for this cement to begin to wash away, leaving plenty of room for bacteria to get between the crown and the natural tooth. This bacteria will quickly begin to eat away at the tooth, typically unnoticed until it's too late to save the tooth at all.

So, unless you're dealing with a baby tooth, it is not recommended to use a pre-made stainless steel crown!

There are 2 main methods when creating & placing a crown:



TRADITIONAL

(often referred to as a “traditional” or “lab-made” crown)

Commonly, crowns require manual impressions & multiple visits to the dentist and the placement of a temporary crown after the tooth is prepared.



SAME DAY

(often referred to as a “chairside” or “same day” crown)

Technology perfected over the last 30 years gives dentists tools to prepare and place a permanent crown in a single appointment.

CEREC and E4D are specific brands of same-day dental software and equipment. They operate similarly, however there are a few differences. Your dentist may prefer one over the other, however it's not likely you'll notice a difference in the result.

A comfortable oral camera provides 3-D digital images of the tooth. The images are used to digitally design your crown. In minutes, a sophisticated milling machine creates your crown from a single piece of porcelain.



TRADITIONAL CROWNS: the downside



The inconvenience of multiple appointments
who has time for that?



Potential issues with the temporary crown
now there are even more appointments & pain.



Not enjoying all the foods you love
you will need to baby your temporary crown.



Messy impressions
who wants a mouthful of gooey paste or putty?



Waiting weeks for your permanent crown
elongated time increases your risk of injury.



If the crown doesn't fit
now there is even more time waiting for the lab.



SAME DAY CROWNS: the upside



Save time

receive your permanent crown in a single visit.



Cost is similar to lab-produced

comparable cost (sometimes less), and with a single visit.



Get your permanent crown right away

reduce risk of further injury.



Resume normal eating

get back to your normal life in a day.



Precise digital impressions

we use a small oral camera for comfort & accuracy.



Natural appearance

no one will know it's there (but you & your dentist).



Save more of your tooth

same day often allows dentists to preserve more.



Reduce hot & cold sensitivity

skip the temperature-conductive metal.



2 Instances where same day crowns may NOT be the best choice:

1. When appearance is paramount

Teeth contain multiple shades of color, slight irregularity & light refraction. Your dentist can create a very pleasing look of natural teeth with a same day crown by painting on colors with specialized materials.

However, if the teeth you need to replace are located toward the front of your mouth and appearance is the highest priority, a same day crown might not give your dentist all the options for creating the most natural result. In a lab, even better results can be achieved by layering different colors of ceramic.

Most dentists who offer same day dentistry, also offer lab-made, traditional crowns.

2. When patients clench or grind their teeth

People who clench or grind their teeth will likely want to consider lab-made crowns because of the higher risk of breakage. In this case, your dentist may recommend a gold alloy, which is the strongest type of crown. Currently, these types are only available as a lab created crowns.



We'll take care of you!

As you've learned, when it comes to crowns, there's a lot to consider.

Both patients and crowns are unique, so be sure to talk to your dentist about which option will be best for you and your particular situation.



At Tom K. Michael Family Dentistry, we proudly bring you same day crowns and restorations.

Our patients love it, and if it's right for you, we know you'll also be thrilled with the results!

Call for your appointment today! (509) 884-6901

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