

Post-Op Temporary Crown

You are now wearing a provisional or “temporary” crown.

While your crown is being made, there are two main reasons for wearing a temporary crown. First is to protect the tooth and keep it comfortable. Second is to keep this and the neighboring teeth from shifting ever so slightly that would affect the fit of the permanent crown.

Now the facts:

The permanent crown will be custom cast to fit your tooth. It is a very precise fit. The temporary crown is a less accurate fit, and it is less retentive. In fact we will throw it away after your next appointment.

The permanent crown will be permanently cemented and you WON'T be able to get it off. The temporary crown is held on with a weak cement (so we can remove it at your next appointment) and you CAN get it off. Your instructions so this won't happen are:

1. No sticky food. Gum and caramels are off the diet until the next appointment. Chewing on the other side isn't a bad idea either.
2. Gentle brushing is encouraged, but no flossing of THIS tooth. The other teeth and gums would enjoy continued flossing however.
3. If you just MUST floss this tooth (stuck food particles, etc) then put the floss through as typical, and then pull it out sideways so as not to lift the temporary crown as the floss is removed.
4. If the temporary crown does come off, often you can replace it and your saliva will make it stay. Give this a try first. If this doesn't work give us a call and we'll have you come in to recement it.

Next visit:

A much easier appointment consisting of removing the temporary crown and after making sure it is perfect, cementing the permanent crown. Some patients choose not to get numb for this appointment. We'll discuss it when you arrive.

The tooth may be sensitive until a short time after the permanent crown is cemented. It has just been worked on and the seal of the temporary crown is not perfect. The nerve gets a bit inflamed and can act hypersensitive compared to normal. This will pass and the gums around the tooth will return to health soon.