



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CROWNS AND BRIDGES?

Do you wish to enhance your smile and repair any chipped, cracked or stained teeth? Crowns and bridges help preserve your teeth, gums and jaws, and restore both the health and appearance of your smile.

Let's find the restorative treatment to balance and harmonise your smile

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AT A GLANCE: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CROWN AND A BRIDGE?

With modern dentistry, you now have different options to replace damaged or missing teeth, whether it has been through decay or injury. With tailor-made restorations made from natural-looking materials, the result is a natural and pleasing smile. Two of the most traditional options are dental crowns and bridges. While they have been used to restore smiles for decades, crowns and bridges have been continuously improved and modernised to create seamless and natural smiles.

	DENTAL CROWNS	DENTAL BRIDGES
How many appointments does it take to receive?	Receiving a dental crown takes two appointments.	Receiving a dental crown takes two appointments.
What are crowns and bridges used for?	Individual crowns are used to restore both the function and aesthetic of individual teeth and are used to cover or “cap” a cracked, chipped or otherwise damaged tooth.	A bridge offers a permanent solution to replace a single or multiple teeth which have been lost or are severely decayed or damaged.
What cosmetic concerns can a crown or a bridge correct?	Crowns can be used for cosmetic purposes and to rebuild or rejuvenate a worn smile, and stained or chipped teeth.	Bridges can be used for cosmetic purposes and to rebuild or rejuvenate a worn smile, and stained or chipped teeth.
What are the benefits of crowns and bridges?	In addition to improving the appearance of a discoloured or a misshapen tooth, a crown also strengthens and protects weakened teeth from further damage.	The teeth surrounding a gap left by missing teeth will gradually shift in an attempt to cover the gap – a dental bridge will fill the gap and somewhat prevent your surrounding teeth from moving.
What do crowns and bridges look like?	Our crowns are made of porcelain materials which can be adjusted in colour, shape and size, and thereby greatly resemble a natural tooth.	Our bridges are made of porcelain materials which can be adjusted in colour, shape and size, and thereby greatly resemble a natural tooth.
Can a crown or bridge improve any other aspects?	After either a root canal or particularly large filling, a dental crown can be used to improve the protection and strength of the tooth.	A bridge can repair an uneven bite and improve the patient’s facial structure, making it easier for the patient to chew food properly and improve their speech.
Are crowns and bridges permanent?	Crowns are durable and long-lasting but not permanent. With the proper care and maintenance, a crown can last up to 15 years.	Bridges are durable and long-lasting but not permanent. With the proper care and maintenance, a bridge can last up to 15 years.
What could happen if I choose not to get a crown or a bridge, and just leave my tooth as it is?	By not restoring a broken tooth, it is left open to further damage and even more susceptible to decay which can result in infection and tooth loss.	Failing to replace a missing tooth compromises the health of your other teeth and can result in moving teeth, a misaligned bite, headaches, jaw pain and neck pain.

So, a crown is a cap-like casing which fits over a carefully and meticulously prepared natural tooth. Similarly, a bridge relies on the existing teeth surrounding the empty space from a lost tooth to “bridge” that gap. By repairing broken teeth and replacing missing teeth, you help to keep your teeth and gums healthy, and it makes it easier to chew food.

As the porcelain materials used in crowns and bridges can be adjusted in colour, shape and size, these restorations can greatly resemble a natural tooth with virtually no visible difference between a natural tooth and a prosthetic. You may think of porcelain as a delicate material but it can be just as strong as a natural tooth and, if taken care of, can last up to 15 years.



WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE PROCEDURE?

If you need a dental crown or bridge, at least two appointments will be required. In the first visit, impressions will be taken and sent to the lab where a long-lasting porcelain restoration will be fabricated. During your first appointment, the affected tooth or teeth will be prepared to accommodate for the restoration. A temporary crown or bridge will be placed for protection before you leave. The next appointment will be 2 to 3 weeks later, in which your temporary restoration will be removed and the final restoration cemented, adjusted and permanently placed.

After your restoration is placed, you need to look after it as you would a natural tooth, which means you need to brush it carefully twice a day and floss around it. You should also take care to avoid grinding your teeth or using that tooth to bite into hard foods as you could damage the crown.

WHAT OTHER OPTIONS DO I HAVE WHEN IT COMES TO RESTORING MY SMILE?

Depending on the extent of the damage to your tooth, you may have several options to consider. Porcelain or cosmetic veneers are brilliant options to correct any defects such as chips or stains to the teeth most visible when you smile. If you have lost teeth or need an extraction, dental implants are the most advanced and superior option when it comes to replacing them.

In addition to the benefits that come with crowns and bridges, dental implants also replace the root of the tooth, thus preserving the growth-stimulating pressure in your jaw and avoiding bone shrinkage and the sunken appearance which is usually associated with tooth loss. Another advantage of dental implants is that the adjacent, healthy teeth don't need to be shaved down so you won't lose any healthy tooth structure.



WHICH TREATMENT SUITS ME?

Dental restoration options have been developed to suit everyone and every need. Whether you just need to replace one tooth, repair multiple teeth or substitute a whole arch, there is an option for you.

To find which treatment is right for you, you should consult an experienced dentist who will be able to assess your oral health, situation and your goals. This way, you'll be able to discuss any concerns you may have, or if there are any limitations to the dental solution you're considering. All alternatives will be discussed in more depth when you go for a consultation.



RESTORE YOUR SMILE WITH REDLANDS GENTLE DENTAL

Are you wondering whether a crown or a bridge could help you achieve the smile you're dreaming of? Our team can provide you with a solution to replace lost teeth, whether it has been through decay, injury or damage. With our dental replacements, we will create a natural looking and pleasing smile for you.

If you're looking for a home for all your dental care, look no further than our family-focused practice.

At Redlands Gentle Dental Care we strive to practice personalised care for each and every patient in a warm and relaxed environment. Established in 1983, our practice will always aim to exceed your expectations with gentle, comfortable and efficient treatment.

We recommend you take the step and book in your consultation with our experienced dentists. During this consultation, one of our dentists will take the time to listen to you and discuss the results you're looking to achieve, and examine your teeth to determine which of our treatments would be best to address your unique circumstances.

The best treatment option varies from patient to patient and case to case; not everyone is suitable for crowns or bridges and we will be able to advise you if this is the case during your consultation. Our team would never prescribe a treatment which isn't suitable for our patient's specific circumstances.

If you have any further questions about our restoration options, or if you would like to book your consultation, please contact us today.



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