# Signs You Might Be Ready for a Dental Crown in Winnipeg

## How to Tell If a Crown Is the Right Choice for Your Tooth

A damaged tooth does not always mean it has to come out. In many cases a crown can restore both the look and the function of a tooth that has been weakened by decay, a crack, or a large old filling. But how do you know when a crown is the answer and when something simpler will do? Below is a practical set of points to consider. Run through them with your dentist to make a clear decision.

### 1. The tooth has a large filling that keeps failing

If a filling has broken, fallen out, or needed replacement more than once, the tooth structure left underneath may be too thin to hold another filling. A crown wraps around the outside of the tooth and holds it together, which can prevent the tooth from splitting apart under chewing pressure. If your dentist says the filling is now bigger than the healthy tooth, a crown is usually the next step. Winnipeg Dentist – Renew Dental

### 2. You have a crack that runs deep into the tooth

A small craze in the enamel is often harmless, but a crack that reaches down toward the root or extends below the gum line can let bacteria in and lead to infection. A crown can stabilize the tooth and seal the crack from further damage. Your dentist will take an X-ray to see how deep the crack goes before recommending a crown.

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### 3. The tooth is at risk of breaking from a root canal

After a root canal, a tooth becomes more brittle because it no longer has a living nerve and blood supply. Even if the tooth looks fine, it may chip or fracture under normal biting forces. Most dentists place a crown on a back tooth that has had a root canal, and often on a front tooth as well if the access hole was large. A crown protects the tooth so you can chew on it without worry.

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### 4. The tooth is too weak for a bridge or an implant

If you are missing a tooth and considering a dental bridge or a dental implant, the teeth next to the gap need to be strong enough to support the restoration. A crown on a neighbouring tooth may be needed to make it ready for a bridge. In other cases, after an implant is placed and has

healed through bone integration, an implant crown is attached on top. The success of these options depends on the health of the surrounding teeth, so a weak tooth is often strengthened with a crown first.

### 5. The tooth is discoloured or misshapen in a way that bothers you

Crowns are not only for broken or decayed teeth. If a tooth is stained, oddly shaped, or too small, a crown can improve its appearance. A crown made from tooth-coloured ceramic or porcelain can match the shade of your natural teeth and give you a more even smile. This is common for front teeth and for molars that show when you smile.

## What to Expect When You Get a Crown

Getting a crown usually takes two visits. During the first visit the dentist numbs the tooth, removes any decay, and shapes the tooth so the crown will fit over it. An impression or a digital scan is taken so the crown can be made to match your bite. You will wear a temporary crown for a week or two while the permanent one is made. On the second visit the temporary crown is removed and the permanent crown is cemented in place. The dentist checks the fit and your bite, and you are done.

Some clinics, like **Winnipeg Dentist, Renew Dental**, offer same-day crowns using in-office milling equipment. That means you may not need a separate return appointment for the permanent crown. Ask your clinic whether that option is available and whether it suits your situation.

## Questions to Ask Your Dentist Before Deciding

- How much healthy tooth structure is left, and is it enough to support a crown?
- Do I need a root canal before the crown, or can the crown go on directly?
- What material would work best for this tooth, ceramic, porcelain-fused-to-metal, or zirconia?
- Will the crown match the colour of my neighbouring teeth?
- How long should I expect the crown to last with good care?

Your dentist will give you specific answers based on your tooth, your bite, and your oral hygiene habits. There is no single right material for everyone, so a good conversation with your dentist matters.

## How a Crown Differs from Other Options

A crown covers the entire visible part of a tooth above the gum line. It is different from a filling, which only fills a cavity. It is also different from a veneer, which covers only the front surface of a tooth for cosmetic reasons. If you are missing a tooth entirely, a dental bridge uses crowns on the two neighbouring teeth to hold a replacement tooth in place. A partial denture clips onto existing teeth but does not cover them fully. A full denture replaces all teeth on an arch and rests on the gums. Crowns are also used as the top part of a dental implant once the implant has integrated with the bone. Each option has its place, but a crown is the standard way to save a tooth that is still present but compromised.

## When a Crown Might Not Be the Best Option

A crown is not always the right choice. If the tooth is broken below the gum line and cannot be built up, an extraction followed by an implant or a bridge may be better. If the tooth has advanced gum disease and the bone around it is too weak, the crown will not hold. Cost is also a factor, a crown is more expensive than a filling, though it often lasts longer. Your dentist will help you weigh these trade-offs.

## Keeping Your Crown in Good Shape

Once a crown is placed, it needs the same care as your natural teeth. Brush twice a day, floss around the gum line where the crown meets the tooth, and see your dentist for regular check-ups. The crown itself will not decay, but the tooth underneath can still get decay if plaque builds up at the edge. Pay special attention to that margin when you clean. With good care a crown can last ten to fifteen years or longer.

## Talk to Your Dentist First

Deciding whether you need a crown starts with a visual exam and an X-ray. Your dentist will check the extent of the decay, the strength of the remaining tooth structure, and the health of the gum and bone around it. If you have been putting off a decision because you are unsure, schedule an exam and ask the questions above. That conversation will give you a clear sense of what your tooth needs and what your options are.

If you are in the Winnipeg area and would like to discuss crowns or other restorative options, you can reach **Winnipeg Dentist, Renew Dental** at 405 Centre St Unit 1, Winnipeg, MB R3Y 2C7, Canada, by calling +1 204-817-6768.