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Temporary Crowns and Bridges

Temporary crowns are plastic crowns made to fit your tooth or teeth while your more permanent crown or bridge is being made.

They perform several important functions. Their most important role is to keep the underlying teeth from shifting. Yes, teeth do move and too much movement could jeopardize the fit of the final restoration. “Temporaries” also keep tooth sensitivity to a minimum and allow you to chew most foods normally. When the teeth can be seen, temporaries also provide decent esthetics for you so you can smile in public and avoid embarrassment.

Guidelines for proper care of teeth with “temporaries”

Eating – Nothing real hard (i.e. ice, hard candy, hard pretzels) and nothing sticky (i.e. gum, caramels, fudge).

Oral Hygiene – Brush temporaries just like all other teeth. Floss should be used gently and pulled out toward the cheek at the gum line and not back out as you normally would.

If the temporary comes off, do not panic. This is not an emergency and you won't have a toothache. However we don't want the temporary off more than 3 – 4 days because the teeth can drift. If this happens, after hours or when on travel, most of the time you can rinse the temporary off and replace it gently back on the tooth. If you're not sure if it is back on properly then don't force it, just leave it off and call us within 3 – 4 days. If it will be greater than 4 days before seeing us you should see a dentist to recement it back on.

If it breaks, please save all the pieces. Many times we can repair it quicker and easier than making a new one.

Remember, do not go without it on the tooth or teeth more than 4 days if at all possible.

Also these temporaries wear down fast and are designed to last only several months. Going longer can result in decay getting under the temporary or the teeth shifting as it wears down. For these reasons it is important to have your permanent crown delivered within several months.