

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEMPORARY CROWN

Today you received a temporary crown. A temporary crown will protect your tooth while the custom restoration is being expertly made by the laboratory technicians.

Temporary cement is used so that the temporary crown can be easily removed at your next appointment. If your temporary crown comes off between appointments, please come in to the office to re-cement the crown as soon as possible. A little toothpaste can be placed inside the temporary crown to help hold it in place until it is cemented. However, do not sleep with a loose temporary crown since it can become a choking hazard. If the temporary crown is not re-cemented within a day or two, the final crown may not fit and we will have to start over the crown making process.

Avoid chewing gum, chewy or sticky foods, and candy while the temporary crown is in place. The temporary crown is made of a plastic and is not as smooth as the final crown and it will come off if these foods are eaten. Your final crown will be custom shaped and, if covered with porcelain, it will be colored to match your teeth. The temporary crown is made to serve you for a short period of time, so its color and shape are not as closely matched to your teeth.

The temporary crown may be contoured slightly differently and have a different texture than the original tooth. Your tongue usually magnifies this small difference, but you will become accustomed to this in a few days. If you notice that your bite feels off or the temporary crown is still bothering your tongue after a few days, please call us – your temporary crown may need to be slightly adjusted.

If we used anesthetic, avoid or be very careful chewing or eating hot foods until the numbness has worn off completely so that you do not bite or burn yourself. The numbing in the upper jaw will last approximately 1 hour, and the numbing in the lower jaw will last up to 4 hours. The site where the anesthetic injection was given may be sore for a few days.

It is common for your teeth to be sensitive following a dental procedure to heat, cold, or pressure, and you can use desensitizing toothpaste to help with the discomfort. The sensitivity may last several days to several months depending on the damage of your tooth. The sensitivity is usually most noticeable the first 12 to 24 hours after the anesthetic wears off and then disappears slowly. If sensitivity persists beyond a few days or worsens after a couple days, please call us – it could be a sign that your tooth needs a root canal.

The gum tissue may have been irritated during the procedure and may be sore for a few days. The site where the anesthetic injection was given may also be sore for a few days. To reduce discomfort or swelling, rinse your mouth with warm salt water 3-4 times a day.

Brush all of your teeth twice a day with a fluoridated toothpaste and floss once a day. When flossing around your temporary crown, slide the floss out between your teeth rather than snapping up between the teeth, so your temporary crown does not come off.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (215) 525-3046.