

## Crown & Bridgework FAQ's - in accordance with the Australian Dental Association Inc. (ADA)

### Q. What is a crown?

- A. Dental crowns (also sometimes referred to as 'dental caps' or 'tooth caps') cover over and encase the tooth on which they are cemented. Dentists use crowns when rebuilding broken or decayed teeth, as a way to strengthen teeth and as a method to improve the cosmetic appearance of a tooth. Crowns are made in a dental laboratory like us here at **Dentiform Australia**, by a dental technician who uses moulds of your teeth made by your dentist.

The type of crown your dentist recommends will depend on the tooth involved and sometimes on your preference. They include porcelain crowns, porcelain-bonded-to-metal crowns, which combine the appearance of tooth coloured material with the strength of metal, gold alloy crowns and acrylic crowns.

### Q. Why is a crown more expensive than a filling?

- A. A crown is more complicated than a filling. Laboratory fees are incurred in its preparation and the materials used are more expensive than normal filling materials.

Two or three visits are usually required for the dentist to reduce the size of the existing tooth, make a mould, fit a temporary crown and finally adhere the permanent crown in place.

### Q. What is a bridge?

- A. A bridge is an appliance permanently fixed in the mouth to replace missing teeth. It uses remaining teeth to support the new artificial tooth or teeth.

A bridge is made up of two or more crowns for the teeth on either side of the gap - these two anchoring teeth are called abutment teeth - and a false tooth/ teeth rigidly attached in between. These false teeth are called pontics. The bridge can be made from gold, alloys, porcelain or a combination of these materials.

An enamel-bonded bridge uses a metal or porcelain framework to which the artificial teeth are attached, and then resin bonded to supporting teeth.