

What To Do If Your Temporary Crown Comes Off

First, don't panic. Temporary crowns are just that — temporary. Your temporary crown is protecting your tooth until the permanent crown can be cemented into place.

Although not as serious as losing a permanent crown, you should still call us at (415) 499-1717 if your temporary crown comes off. Until you can reach us for advice, here are some steps to follow:

Step 1: Recover the temporary crown

Is it in good shape? If it is intact, you should be able to reattach it to your tooth. If your temporary crown is chipped or cracked, remove any broken pieces and rinse your mouth to wash away any particles.

Step 2: Rinse the temporary crown

Whether it is in good or poor shape, be sure to rinse it off gently using warm water.

Step 3: Check the original tooth

Your original tooth is usually a smooth prep that has been sealed and protected.

Step 4: Place the temporary crown over the original tooth

If your temporary crown does come off, please replace immediately with a temporary dental cement, denture adhesive or toothpaste. Toothpaste may help hold it in place, but please remove your crown when you eat and sleep to prevent swallowing or inhaling, and call our office at (415) 499-1717 so we may re-cement it for you.

Step 5: Adhere the temporary crown to the original tooth

Dental cement is available at any drug store and is the best option for reattaching a temporary crown. Place the cement on the inside of your crown and set it over your original tooth according to the product's instructions. If you don't have access to dental cement, try denture adhesive or toothpaste.

How to Care for a Temporary Crown

To reduce the chance of losing your crown, consider the following recommendations:

Eating: For the most part, you may eat normally but please chew anything hard or crunchy on the opposite side of your temporary crown to prevent it from cracking or breaking. Also, avoid candies, gum, or anything sticky including bread products that could dislodge it.

Brushing, Flossing, and Rinsing: You may brush like normal around your temporary crown but should not floss on either side of it until your permanent crown is placed. If you have to floss, pull the floss through the side to prevent dislodging the crown. It's a good idea to rinse your mouth more frequently to dislodge particles and remove them from your mouth, decreasing the chance of infection.