

Meta Title	<i>Can You Get a Cavity Under a Crown? West Coast Dental</i>
Meta Description	<i>Crowns can improve your health and smile, but it doesn't mean they're without their own complications. Did you know you can get a cavity under a crown? You can. In this article we'll explore how crowns work, their susceptibility to cavities, what causes them, and what you can do to prevent it.</i>
Recommended URL	<i>https://www.westcoastdental.com/blog/can-you-get-a-cavity-under-a-crown</i>
Box Folder URL	<i>*Content editor to add this</i>
Target Keywords	<i>Can you get a cavity under a crown</i>

Can You Get a Cavity Under a Crown?

by Sarah Carpenter

A crown is a cover that dentists put on a tooth in order to restore it to its normal shape, size and function. It makes the tooth stronger and can improve the way it looks. Why get a crown in the first place? There are a few reasons. You might have a cavity that's too big for a filling, are missing a tooth and need a bridge, have a cracked tooth, need to cover a dental implant or simply just want an unattractive tooth covered with a prettier one. Just because crowns are available to improve your health and smile, it doesn't mean they're without their own complications. Did you know you can get a cavity underneath a crown? You can. We'll explore how crowns work, their susceptibility to cavities, what causes them and what you can do to prevent them.

How Crowns Work

[Dental crowns](#) are placed on top of damaged teeth to protect and cover the shape of your teeth. They don't typically require special care over time other than regular good oral hygiene. Dental crowns can be [made out of metals](#), porcelain and resin. They are custom-made to match the shape and color of your tooth (unless you opt for a metal crown like gold).

There are [seven types of crowns](#) that can be used on your teeth:

1. Porcelain dental crowns.
2. Metal dental crowns.
3. Stainless steel dental crowns.
4. All-resin dental crowns.
5. Gold dental crowns.
6. Zirconia dental crowns.
7. e.Max: lithium disilicate dental crowns.

Can You Get a Cavity Under a Crown?

The answer is yes, you can still get a cavity in the tooth being covered by a crown. Crowns are made from synthetic material. So, it isn't possible to get a cavity in the crown itself, but a cavity can develop in the tooth your crown is attached to. Cavities are equally likely to form in all seven types of crowns —

they're all susceptible to decay. What makes the biggest difference is how well your dentist seats the crown in your mouth. If the crown is fully seated, it is set at or just above your gumline, and cavities are unlikely to form. If your crown is not seated appropriately and left open (a gap between the crown and natural tooth), bacteria can sneak under the crown and cause a cavity.

The Causes of Cavities Under a Crown

The area of your tooth that the crown attaches to is known as the margin and is located near the gumline. When plaque builds up there and isn't removed, it can erode the protective layer of your tooth, and a cavity can develop.

How to Prevent Cavities Under a Crown

Crowns can harbor plaque and bacteria. So, it's very important to maintain a good oral hygiene routine. [Ways to prevent cavities](#) under a crown include:

- [Brushing your teeth twice-a-day](#) with fluoride toothpaste and [flossing](#)
- [Using mouthwashes](#) containing fluoride
- [Attending regular dental visits](#) for exams and cleanings
- Having your dentist apply dental sealants — a protective, plastic coating applied to the chewing surface of back teeth that seals off grooves that collect food
- Drinking tap water for added fluoride
- Avoiding frequent snacking and sipping — eating or drinking beverages other than water causes your mouth bacteria to create acids that can destroy tooth enamel
- Eating tooth-healthy foods — fresh fruits and vegetables increase saliva flow, and unsweetened coffee, tea and sugar-free gum help wash away food particles
- Getting fluoride treatments from the dentist
- Getting antibacterial treatments if you're vulnerable to tooth decay due to a medical condition
- Using combination treatments such as [chewing xylitol-based gum](#) along with using prescription fluoride and an antibacterial rinse

West Coast Dental Can Help

Crowns can improve your health and smile, but getting them doesn't mean they won't have their own complications. If you develop a cavity under your crown, we can help. Find the right practitioner for your needs at West Coast Dental. Our specialists and general dentists are ready to serve you and meet your dental needs. [Schedule an appointment](#) with us today.

Sarah Carpenter is a freelance writer whose portfolio spans the industries of healthcare, higher education and entertainment. Find out more at [her website](#).

Sources

Cleveland Clinic - [Dental Crowns](#)

American Dental Association (ADA) - [Crowns](#)

Mayo Clinic - [Cavities/Tooth Decay](#)