

How Much Does a Dental Crown Cost in Melbourne? Materials Compared - Smile Solutions

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How Much Does a Dental Crown Cost in Melbourne? Materials Compared A practical guide to dental crown costs in 2026, comparing porcelain, zirconia, gold, and same-day CEREC options so you can make an informed decision. If your dentist has recommended a dental crown, you're probably weighing up two things: how much it's going to cost and what material is best for your tooth. Both are valid questions, and the answers are more connected than you might think. The material your crown is made from directly affects its cost, its longevity, its appearance, and its suitability for your specific situation. The problem is that most dental websites either give you a single vague price range or list materials without explaining why you'd choose one over another. At Smile Solutions, we believe you should understand dental crown cost in Melbourne alongside the clinical reasoning behind each option, so you can have an informed conversation with your dentist rather than simply accepting whatever is recommended without context. Here's a genuine, transparent breakdown of what dental crowns cost in Melbourne in 2026 and how to choose the right one for your tooth.

Dental Crown Cost in Melbourne: By Material

Full porcelain (ceramic) crown Cost: \$1,500 to \$2,200 Best for: Front teeth and premolars where aesthetics are the priority Pros: Excellent colour matching, natural translucency, no metal margin Cons: Slightly less durable than zirconia for heavy-grinding patients

Zirconia crown Cost: \$1,500 to \$2,500 Best for: Back teeth (molars) and patients who grind or clench Pros: Exceptionally strong, tooth-coloured, biocompatible, versatile Cons: Can be less translucent than layered porcelain (though modern multilayer zirconia is closing this gap)

Porcelain-fused-to-metal (PFM) crown Cost: \$1,200 to \$1,800 Best for: Posterior teeth where budget is a concern Pros: Strong metal substructure with porcelain outer layer for aesthetics Cons: Dark metal margin can show at the gum line over time, particularly if gums recede; porcelain can chip off the metal core; less natural light transmission than all-ceramic

Gold crown Cost: \$1,500 to \$2,500 (varies with gold price) Best for: Back molars, patients who grind heavily, teeth with limited space Pros: Exceptionally durable, gentle on opposing teeth, precise fit, gold is the most biocompatible metal Cons: Not tooth-coloured (some patients actually consider this a positive); cost fluctuates with gold market

CEREC same-day crown Cost: \$1,500 to \$2,300 Best for: Patients who want their crown completed in a single appointment Pros: No temporary crown, no second appointment, digital precision Cons:

Material options may be limited compared to lab-made crowns; not ideal for all cases Temporary (provisional) crown Cost: \$200 to \$500 (often included in the overall crown fee) Note: This is a placeholder worn while your permanent crown is being made in the lab, typically for 1 to 2 weeks What's Included in the Crown Cost? A comprehensive crown quote should include: Tooth preparation (shaping the tooth to receive the crown) Digital scan or impression Shade matching Temporary crown (for lab-made crowns) Lab fabrication fee Crown fitting and cementation Bite adjustment Follow-up review At Smile Solutions, our crown fees include all of these components. If you receive a quote elsewhere, check whether the lab fee and temporary crown are included, as some practices list these separately.

Factors That Affect Crown Cost Beyond material choice, several factors influence the final price. Location of the tooth Front teeth crowns require more meticulous colour matching, surface texture replication, and translucency management. The ceramist spends more time achieving an aesthetic result that blends invisibly with your natural teeth. This is reflected in the cost, particularly for hand-layered porcelain crowns. Back teeth are less visible but bear greater chewing forces. The focus shifts from aesthetics to strength and fit, which affects material selection but may not necessarily mean a lower cost. Complexity of the case A straightforward crown on a well-supported tooth with healthy gums is a simpler procedure than a crown on a tooth that: Has undergone root canal treatment and needs a post and core build-up (add \$300 to \$600) Has significant decay requiring a large build-up before the crown can be placed Has limited remaining tooth structure Is part of a bridge spanning multiple teeth Requires crown lengthening surgery (a gum procedure to expose more tooth for the crown to grip) – add \$500 to \$1,500 The lab and ceramist The quality of a dental crown depends enormously on the skill of the ceramist who makes it. Master ceramists with decades of experience produce crowns that are functionally superior and aesthetically indistinguishable from natural teeth. Their lab fees reflect this expertise. At Smile Solutions, our in-house Smile Lab means we have direct collaboration between our clinicians and our ceramists. This isn't just a logistical convenience – it means the ceramist can see your teeth in person, match nuances of colour and translucency that photographs can't capture, and make adjustments in real-time.

Same-day vs lab-made CEREC same-day crowns use CAD/CAM technology to design and mill your crown from a solid block of ceramic during a single appointment. This eliminates the need for a temporary crown and a second visit. The cost of a CEREC crown is comparable to a lab-made crown, sometimes slightly higher due to the technology investment, sometimes lower because there's no external lab fee. The real value of same-day crowns is convenience and the elimination of temporaries. However, not every case is suitable for a same-day crown. Complex aesthetic cases on front teeth, multi-unit bridges, and certain clinical situations may benefit from the traditional lab workflow where the ceramist has more time and material options.

Choosing the Right Crown Material: A Practical Guide If it's a front tooth you can see when you smile Layered porcelain or high-translucency zirconia offers the best aesthetic result. These materials mimic the way natural teeth interact with light, creating a result that looks genuine rather than obviously "dental." This is where having a skilled ceramist matters most. If it's a back molar that takes heavy chewing forces Zirconia or gold. Both are exceptionally strong. Zirconia is tooth-coloured, which most patients prefer. Gold is gentle on opposing teeth and has the longest track record of any crown material, but its visibility puts some patients off. If you grind or clench your teeth (bruxism), strength and wear properties become critical considerations. If it's a premolar (visible but functional) Zirconia or full porcelain. These teeth are visible in a broad smile but also bear moderate chewing forces. Modern multilayer zirconia offers an excellent balance of aesthetics and strength. If you grind your teeth Zirconia or gold. Porcelain crowns can fracture under the extreme forces generated by bruxism. If you grind, your dentist may also recommend a night guard to protect your crown investment. If budget is the primary concern PFM crowns offer reasonable aesthetics and good strength at a lower price point. However, the aesthetic compromises (particularly the visible metal margin) mean they're becoming less popular as all-ceramic options become more affordable.

Health Fund Coverage for Dental Crowns Dental crowns are classified as major dental, and most extras policies provide partial coverage: Typical fund contributions: \$300 to \$800 per crown, depending on your level of cover Higher contributions for patients on top-level extras policies Some funds differentiate between crown types (full porcelain vs PFM vs gold) Key considerations: 12-month waiting periods apply for major dental on most policies Annual benefit limits may restrict how many crowns you can claim in a single year If you need multiple

crowns, consider timing treatment across benefit years to maximise your coverage Pre-approval from your fund gives you certainty about your out-of-pocket cost We process all health fund claims on the spot at Smile Solutions through HICAPS and can provide you with the specific item numbers for your crown so you can check your benefits before treatment. Payment Options We offer several ways to manage the cost of crown treatment: Health fund claims processed immediately Interest-free payment plans available Treatment staging – if you need multiple crowns, we can plan treatment over several months to spread the cost Priority-based planning – if budget requires it, we'll help you identify which teeth need crowns most urgently and which can safely wait How Long Do Dental Crowns Last? The longevity of your crown depends on material, placement, maintenance, and habits: Porcelain crowns: 10 to 20 years Zirconia crowns: 15 to 25+ years Gold crowns: 20 to 30+ years (gold has the longest documented lifespan) PFM crowns: 10 to 15 years (porcelain can chip off the metal over time) CEREC same-day crowns: 10 to 15+ years (improving as materials advance) These are averages. A well-made crown on a well-maintained tooth with regular dental check-ups can last significantly longer.

Conversely, grinding, clenching, poor oral hygiene, or trauma can shorten a crown's lifespan. When calculating value, consider cost per year of service. A gold crown at \$2,200 that lasts 25 years costs \$88 per year. A PFM crown at \$1,500 that needs replacing after 12 years costs \$125 per year. The cheapest option isn't always the best value. When Do You Need a Crown? Common reasons your dentist may recommend a crown: After root canal treatment Particularly on back teeth, which become more brittle after root canal and are prone to fracture without crown protection. Large filling failure When a large filling breaks or decays, there may not be enough remaining tooth structure to support another filling. Cracked tooth A crown holds the tooth together and prevents the crack from propagating. Severe wear Teeth worn down by grinding, acid erosion, or age may need crowns to restore their shape and function. Cosmetic improvement Crowns can dramatically improve the appearance of severely discoloured, misshapen, or malformed teeth. Implant restoration The visible tooth component of a dental implant is a crown. Book your Crown Consultation If you've been told you need a crown and want a clear understanding of your options and costs, our team at Smile Solutions can provide a thorough assessment and transparent quote. With our in-house Smile Lab, same-day CEREC capability, and over 80 clinicians including prosthodontists who specialise in crown and bridge work, we deliver consistently excellent results. Book an appointment today Articles from Smile Solutions View Blogs Specialist Care Smile Solutions 18 Aug 2026 Endodontist vs Dentist for Root Canal: Why It Makes a Difference Read More General Smile Solutions 10 Aug 2026 Mouth Breathing: The Silent Habit That's Changing Your Face and Your Health Read More General Smile Solutions 29 Jul 2026 Diabetes and Dental Health: The Two-Way Street That Most People Don't Know About Read More Specialist Care Smile Solutions 18 Aug 2026 Endodontist vs Dentist for Root Canal: Why It Makes a Difference Read More General Smile Solutions 10 Aug 2026 Mouth Breathing: The Silent Habit That's Changing Your Face and Your Health Read More General Smile Solutions 29 Jul 2026 Diabetes and Dental Health: The Two-Way Street That Most People Don't Know About Read More View Blog Call Us 13 13 96 Location Level 1, 220 Collins Street Manchester Unity Building, Melbourne VIC 3000 Hours Of Service Monday – Friday: 8.00am – 6.00pm Saturday: 8.30am – 1.30pm Sunday: By Appointment Our Services General Dentistry Cosmetic Dentistry Orthodontics Specialist Care Dental Implants Children's Dentistry Emergency Dentistry Why Choose Us Our Team Media Awards Careers Technology Location Holistic Dentistry Quick Links Contact Us Articles Packages & Offers Dental Payment Plans Understanding Your Treatment Sitemap Privacy Policy Copyright © Smile Solutions. All Rights Reserved. This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply. Close Our Services General Dentistry Dental Cleans and Hygienists Wisdom Teeth Emergency Dentistry Root Canal Tooth Fillings Chipped or Cracked Teeth Snoring & Sleep Apnoea TMD & Teeth Grinding Sport Mouthguards Dental Anxiety Cosmetic Dentistry Porcelain Veneers & Crowns Same Day Porcelain Veneers™ Composite Bonding Professional Teeth Whitening CEREC Restorations Invisalign® No Braces All-on-4® Dental Implants Gummy Smile Complimentary Cosmetic Consultation

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