



PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS AFTER CROWN AND/OR BRIDGE PREPARATION

The tooth or teeth that have been prepared have had temporary restoration(s) placed. If the temporary restoration should fracture or come out, call us **IMMEDIATELY** so that it can be re-cemented or repaired. This is very important – a temporary restoration keeps the gums from “growing” over the margins (tooth edges) of each prepared tooth and maintains the “bite” of that tooth with its opposing tooth. Without the temporary restoration, the gums will start to “grow over” the edges of the preparation, and the prepared tooth and its opposing tooth will erupt toward each other, decreasing the amount of space at the chewing surface for the restoration, sometimes **within only a few days**. This could even cause the need for re-preparing the tooth, new impression, new temporary restoration and new restoration. **If a new restoration is required but is still able to be re-prepared, because the temporary one has been off the tooth too long, there will be an additional fee of \$400.00 to you**, and we certainly want to help you avoid additional cost. If a severe amount of time elapses, it is possible that no restoration will be able to be redone, therefore, it’s imperative that you communicate with us if you are having difficulty with keeping your appointment(s), as any deposit toward treatment may be forfeited, depending on circumstances.

Patient’s initials: _____

If the temporary restoration comes out after office hours, dry the inside of it as best you can (a small piece of paper towel or a dry Q-Tip works well), and use a Q-Tip to place a very small amount of petroleum jelly (like Vaseline) inside the temporary, and carefully place it back on the tooth. The Vaseline tends to make a “suction” and should keep it on until the next morning, as long as you’re careful with eating, etc. Call the next morning for an appointment for re-cementation.

Preparing teeth for restorations can create soreness of the gums around the tooth/teeth. This soreness may last for several days following the appointment. The best remedy for gum soreness is **warm salt water rinses**, as often as every hour. This can be done for as many days as needed. Mix ½ teaspoon of salt in approx. 8 oz. (1 cup) of very warm water until it dissolves. Swish the sore area with some of it for several seconds and spit it out. Do this, a little at a time, with the remainder of the salt water. Set the timer in your cell phone to remind yourself to rinse with the warm salt water every hour. Brush the area very slowly and gently twice a day. Floss daily, starting 24 hours after the preparation appointment, very slowly and gently. Keeping the area plaque-free with flossing will help tremendously with the healing of the gums, which will not only make them feel better sooner, but will help to ensure the success of the delivery of the permanent restoration. Chew carefully with the temporary restoration–no sticky or hard foods.

It is possible for some minor sensitivity to occur to chewing, sweets or temperature, while in temporary restorations. If symptoms become constant or more severe, call us for an appointment. Sometimes, sensitivity to chewing or temperature means a slight adjustment to the chewing surface of the temporary restoration is needed, which is quick and easy – **call us at (504) 347-6000**.

I, _____ understand and agree to follow these directions.
Patient Name (printed)

Patient Signature

Tooth Number(s)

Witness

Date