



Sensitivity after placement of a restoration

It is not unusual to have some initial sensitivity after a filling is placed. Often the gum around the tooth can be a little tender – in particular when decay has gone between the teeth – necessitating the use of bands or strips. It is not uncommon for a tooth to be sensitive to cold immediately after the placement of a large or deep restoration. Provided the pain is of short duration and gradually lessens over the next few weeks the tooth should eventually settle down.

Remember that it will take time to adjust to the feel of your new bite, the way your teeth fit together. When the bite is altered or the position of the teeth is changed it takes several days for the brain to recognize the new position of your teeth and/or their thickness as normal.

Occasionally after the placement of a restoration a tooth can become non-vital and require root canal treatment. Each time we replace a filling there is trauma to the pulp (nerve, blood supply). This trauma is caused by a combination of the toxins released by the bacteria that cause decay, the drilling itself, and the reaction of the pulp to the filling materials themselves. Other factors such as tooth grinding and fracture lines within teeth also affect the health of the pulp.

The accumulation of this trauma over time can result in a 'stressed pulp,' that is a state of chronic near-death. As a result, a tooth which was seemingly fine prior to dental treatment may require root canal treatment afterwards because the pulp of the tooth, having already been compromised, is unable to withstand any further stress.

Teeth that are, or are becoming non-vital generally become sensitive to hot and cold, as well as being tender to bite on. Pain will often arise spontaneously and last for a long period of time, perhaps even be constant and will often be throbbing in nature. Should this occur please contact us immediately.