



# Temporary Tooth Dressings

Dressings are of 2 main kinds

## Therapeutic Dressing:

Where they "sedate" the tooth to help the pulp to heal or recover prior to placing the final restoration. So rather than straight away extracting or root treating a tooth with an inflamed nerve (pulp) a dressing is placed and left for a while and the result reviewed prior to deciding on the final treatment.

## Temporary filling:

These are used for example between visits for root treatment. It is important that the material seals the cavity. This is not the case with the sort of filling materials that chemists sell.

Treatment planning is based on examination, x-rays and experience. Many patients who attend in pain are at the end of their tether and have previously tried a few remedies. Many have made up their minds and want an extraction or root treatment.

Extractions are very final and root treatments can be very expensive.

When there has been an open cavity or a loose filling the cavity is often wet and contaminated with bacteria and the pulp is inflamed. Placing a filling straight away is often the event that pushes the pulp over the edge and kills it.

Sometimes the decay may have reached the nerve but not actually killed it, this may result in a change of treatment and a dressing is placed rather a filling. In this case another appointment will be needed for the permanent filling.

Sometimes after trauma the nerve may be exposed and we place a special dressing called a pulp cap.

Placing a therapeutic dressing does not always work, but in many cases can provide pain relief and a chance for the tooth to settle down.

## Sometimes the temporary dressing does not work

## We do not offer a guarantee or a warranty and you may still need a root canal or extraction.

Many patients are amazed at how quickly dressing work and they experience almost instant pain relief.

The final decision about treatment is made by the patient and is based on all the issues, including cost, convenience, and previous. Regardless of which material is utilized, the teeth treated may remain sensitive or even possibly more painful after placement of a dressing. If the pain is severe or extreme sensitivity persists then please call us.

Risks include possible unsuccessful results and/or failure.

**Necessity for Root Canal Therapy or extraction:** When dressings are placed or replaced, the preparation of the teeth often necessitates the removal of tooth structure adequate to insure that the diseased or otherwise compromised tooth structure provides sound tooth structure for placement of the dressing.

At times, this may lead to exposure or trauma to underlying pulp tissue. Should the pulp not heal, which often is exhibited by extreme sensitivity or possible abscess, root canal treatment or extraction may be required. In the case where Root canal or extraction is required then extra charges will apply.

**The cost of the dressing does not include the cost of the permanent restoration (Filling/crown).**