

Stillwater Family Dental
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Cracked-Tooth Syndrome

You may have a very common problem in one of your teeth.

Teeth may crack when subjected to stress of chewing hard foods, ice or by biting on an unexpected hard object. Teeth with or without restorations may exhibit this problem. But teeth restored with typical silver alloy restorations are most susceptible. Older persons have more cracked teeth than younger people.

Symptoms and Signs may include the following:

- Pain when Chewing
- Pain on cold-air application
- Unsolicited pain (usually leakage of sugar into tooth crack)
- No x-ray evidence of problem
- No dental decay present
- Easy verification of crack when tooth is prepared for restoration

Treatment of Cracked Teeth:

1. **Simple Crack:** The majority of cracked teeth (about 9 out of 10) can be treated by placement of a simple crown (cap) on the tooth. When the tooth is prepared for the crown and temporary restoration is placed, the pain usually leaves immediately. **If this is the case with your tooth, we will place the final crown without a problem on your next appointment. The condition should then be solved.**
2. **Complex Crack:** Occasionally, (about 1 in 10) the tooth cracks into the pulp (nerve) of the tooth. If pain persists after placement of the temporary crown, you may have a crack into the pulp of the affected tooth. Please call us. This tooth may require endodontic (root canal therapy) before the crown is placed. This procedure requires about two additional appointments before the crown is placed.

Thank you for your cooperation!