

## FAQ's About Post and Cores

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### **What is a Post and Core?**

*A post and core is a restoration that is cemented into the root canal chamber of a tooth and builds up the top of the tooth in order to hold a crown in place. It is cemented into place and cannot be removed.*

### **What material is in a Post and Core?**

*Posts are made of three types of materials:*

- 1. Metal*
- 2. Porcelain*
- 3. A fibrous resin material*

*Cores are made of two types of materials:*

- 1. A white "composite" filling material*
- 2. A silver "amalgam" filling material*

*Alternatively, the post and core can be made of one solid piece of:*

- 1. Porcelain*
- 2. Gold alloy*

### **What are the benefits of a Post and Core?**

*A post and core holds a restoration on to a tooth which has too little remaining structure to retain the restoration itself.*

### **What are the risks of a Post and Core?**

*Having a post and core involves some inherent risks both to the remaining tooth structure and to the post and core itself:*

- The root of the tooth may be perforated when placing the post, necessitating the extraction of the tooth*
- Under stress, the post may torque the root of the tooth and cause it to fracture, necessitating the extraction of the tooth*
- Under stress, the cement holding the post and core on to the tooth can fail causing the post and core to leak, loosen or fall out*

### **What are the alternatives to having a Post and Core?**

*The alternative to having a post and core is to have the tooth extracted and replaced with:*

- A dental implant*
- A bridge*
- A partial denture*

**How can an existing bite affect a Post and Core?**

- *Excessive biting forces or untreated bite problems may lead to the post and core breaking, loosening or leaking*
- *Excessive biting forces or untreated bite problems may lead to the tooth in which the post and core has been placed breaking*

**Are there any post-treatment restrictions once I have a Post and Core?**

*A post and core may break, loosen or cause the tooth to break if chewing very hard or sticky foods.*