

Why bridges and crowns fail

Improper design.

Bridge span too long,

Cantilever design (no abutment on one side of bridge)

Not enough abutment teeth for size of bridge

Teeth out of alignment

Bite not balanced on bridge

No stress breakers in long bridge

Loose abutment teeth (gum disease or occlusal trauma)

Abutment teeth with short, thin or otherwise inadequate roots

Short or overly tapered preps

No retention grooves

History of decay on retaining abutment teeth

Compromised abutments

Failing root canals

Posts and oversized posts in teeth with root canals

Cracked teeth

History of high decay levels

History of poor hygiene

Lack of regular checkups, cleanings, and regular maintenance to catch and correct problems when small.

Poor diet high in refined carbohydrates (sugars)

Poor saliva (dry mouth with poor buffering qualities due to age, diet, medications and disease)

Compromised dentition

Inadequate number of remaining healthy teeth taking forces

History of parafunction (clenching/grinding)

Severe wear and short crowns

Unbalanced bite

Severe gum recession

Gum disease

Faulty construction

Material of inadequate strength

Poor manufacturing technique

Inadequate design for situation due to cost or location

Wrong cement (weak cement)

Improper cementing technique

Poor impressions

Poor fit at margins

Decay left in teeth

Inadequate buildups on abutments

Bite not adjusted properly at cementation

Patient abuse

Patient using bridge before cement completely set

Patient not reporting a loose bridge immediately to dentist

Chewing on things they shouldn't

Not following hygiene protocol like flossing

Compromised bridge after placement

Excessive bite adjustments thinning out material

Root canal treatment of abutment teeth through bridge

Recementing of bridge and/or buildups after it became loose

Recurrent decay of abutment teeth requiring fillings at margins

Time

Average lifespan of a dental bridge is 7-10 years.

Trauma

Biting on something like an olive pit, bone, etc.

A blow to the mouth,

Chewing foods like taffy may pull a bridge out.