

## FAQ's About Build-ups

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### **What is a Build-up?**

*A build-up is the addition of a restorative material to a broken down or decayed tooth before a crown, bridge, inlay, onlay or veneer is placed.*

### **What material is in a Build-up?**

*A build-up is made of:*

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

### **What are the benefits of a Build-up?**

*A build-up restores a broken down or decayed tooth to the ideal shape needed to accommodate a crown, bridge, inlay, onlay or veneer.*

### **What are the risks of a Build-up?**

- Preparing for and placing a build-up can irritate the tooth and cause "post-operative" sensitivity which may last for up to 3 months*
- Teeth which have had build-ups may need a root canal treatment about 6% of the time during the lifetime of the tooth*

### **What are the alternatives to having a Build-up?**

*No treatment alternatives exist besides a build-up for broken down or decayed teeth which require a crown, bridge, inlay, onlay or veneer.*

### **How can an existing bite affect a Build-up?**

- Excessive biting forces or untreated bite problems may lead to the build-up breaking or loosening*
- Excessive biting forces or untreated bite problems may lead to the tooth in which the build-up has been placed breaking*

### **Are there any post treatment restrictions once I have a Build-up?**

*A build-up may break or loosen if chewing very hard or sticky foods.*