

Gold Restorations

Since 1906, cast gold alloy tooth restorations have had a prominent position in dentistry. Gold alloy used in dentistry has diminished in recent years because of the availability of tooth-colored restorations, the high cost of gold alloy, and the high commercial orientation toward “white” teeth. However, gold alloy restorations are well known to have the greatest longevity and strength of all dental restorations. It is interesting to note that most dentists want gold alloy restorations when their own teeth need to be restored.

Advantages of gold alloy restorations:

1. The longevity of cast gold restorations is greater than any other tooth restoration. Many patients and dentists report 40–50 years of service. Average longevity for gold restorations is at least 20 years.
2. Wear of opposing teeth is minimal with cast gold restorations. Gold alloy wears almost exactly like tooth enamel.
3. Gold restorations are strong and can be made to fit teeth exactly. When cemented with decay-preventive cement, the restorations resist further decay.

Disadvantages:

1. Gold restorations are not tooth-colored, and most people object to placing them in areas of the mouth that display the metal.
2. The cost of cast gold restorations is higher than some other types of restorations because of the cost of the gold alloy.

Many dentists suggest use of gold alloy restorations in areas of the mouth that are not visible to observers, and tooth-colored restorations in areas usually observed when the patient smiles. Patients who unconsciously grind their teeth (bruxers) are also better treated with gold alloy restorations, as these restorations wear similar to natural teeth.