

Dental Emergency: Knocked-Out or Broken Tooth

What to Do in the First Few Minutes

What you do right away can genuinely decide whether a knocked-out tooth is saved, or how a chipped/cracked tooth is treated. Call our office as soon as you can — we'll tell you exactly what to do on the phone and get you in as fast as possible.

Knocked-Out (Avulsed) Tooth

- Pick the tooth up by the crown (chewing surface) only — never touch the root.
- If dirty, rinse it gently with milk or water — don't scrub it or use soap.
- Try to reinsert it into its socket, facing the right way, and hold it in place by biting on gauze or a clean cloth.
- Can't reinsert it? Keep it in a small container of cold milk — never store it dry or in plain water.
- See a dentist within 30 minutes for the best chance of saving the tooth. After hours, go to an ER or urgent dental clinic — don't wait until morning.
- Note: a knocked-out baby tooth should NOT be reinserted — call us for guidance instead.

Chipped or Cracked Tooth

- Rinse your mouth gently with warm water to clear debris.
- If you can find the broken piece, save it in a small container with a little milk or water and bring it with you.
- Apply a cold compress to the cheek near the area for pain and swelling; avoid chewing on that side.
- A small chip with no pain can usually wait for a next-day appointment. Significant pain, a crack toward the gumline, a sharp edge, or sensitivity to hot/cold are reasons to call the same day.

■ This is a true emergency-room situation if

There's facial swelling affecting breathing or swallowing.

The jaw may be broken or dislocated, or bleeding won't stop with pressure.