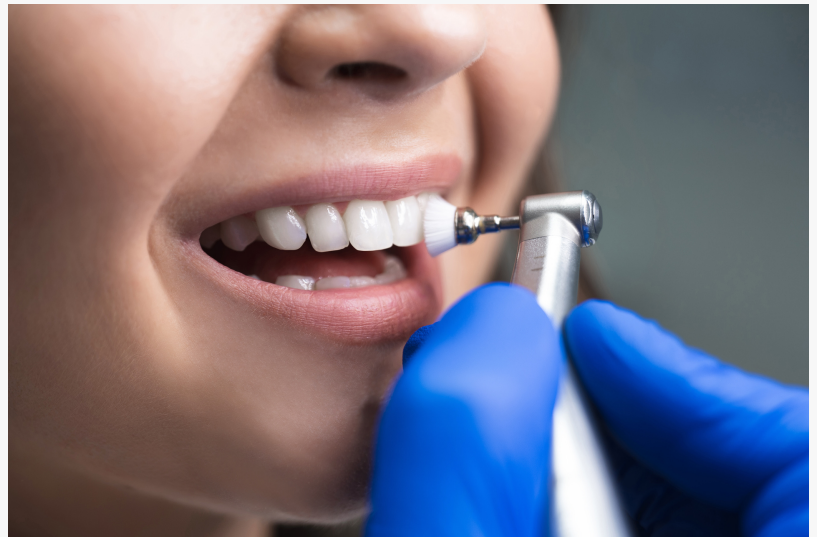


# Cracked and Chipped Teeth: Why Prompt Dental Evaluation Is Critical

SLIDELL, LA, UNITED STATES, June 13, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A cracked or chipped tooth may seem like a minor issue, but delaying treatment can lead to serious consequences. What begins as a small fracture can progress into deeper structural damage, infection, or even tooth loss. Understanding the risks of ignoring dental trauma is essential for maintaining long-term oral health.

Dental cracks and chips occur for a variety of reasons, including biting down on hard foods, sports injuries, bruxism (teeth grinding), or accidents involving facial impact. In many cases, the damage may appear cosmetic at first glance—especially when pain is absent or minimal. However, beneath the surface, the integrity of the tooth may be compromised.



**SLIDELL SMILES  
DENTAL**  
CHANDLER GOLTZ, DMD

“Cracks in teeth often act like hairline fractures in glass,” said [Dr. Chandler Goltz, DMD](#), owner of [Slidell Smiles](#) in Slidell, Louisiana. “They may seem harmless at first, but with repeated pressure, they deepen and spread. Once a crack reaches the inner layers of the tooth or the root, treatment becomes more complicated and outcomes less predictable.”

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*Dr. Chandler Goltz, DMD*

When a tooth is cracked or chipped, the protective enamel layer is disrupted, exposing the inner dentin or even the pulp—the tissue that houses nerves and blood vessels. This exposure increases vulnerability to bacterial invasion,

which can lead to inflammation, pulpitis, and infection. If left untreated, an infected tooth may

require root canal therapy or extraction.

Symptoms of a worsening cracked tooth may include sensitivity to temperature changes, discomfort when chewing, intermittent sharp pain, or swelling in the surrounding gum tissue. However, not all cracked teeth produce symptoms immediately. Some remain asymptomatic for extended periods, giving a false sense of stability while underlying damage progresses.

Chipped teeth, while often less severe than cracks, also carry risks if not addressed. Small chips can create sharp edges that irritate the tongue or cheeks. Larger chips may expose dentin, leading to sensitivity and increased susceptibility to decay. Structural imbalances from a chipped tooth can also alter bite alignment, placing additional stress on surrounding teeth and joints.

In cases involving molars or premolars, the stress of daily chewing can turn a small crack into a vertical fracture that reaches the root. These types of cracks are often untreatable and may necessitate extraction. Early intervention, by contrast, often allows for conservative treatments such as bonding, crowns, or onlays that preserve the natural tooth.

According to Dr. Goltz, modern diagnostic tools such as digital X-rays and intraoral cameras make it possible to identify cracks and chips that are not visible to the naked eye. Regular dental exams play a critical role in detecting subtle fractures before they become larger problems.

Slidell Smiles provides comprehensive dental care to patients in the Northshore region, including evaluation and management of cracked, chipped, or fractured teeth. Treatment plans are individualized based on the location, size, and severity of the damage, as well as the patient's overall oral health.

In some cases, conservative treatment may be sufficient. Bonding with composite resin can restore function and appearance for minor chips and cracks. More extensive damage may require a dental crown to encase the entire tooth and provide reinforcement. If the crack has reached the pulp, root canal therapy followed by crown placement may be necessary to save the tooth.

Delaying treatment increases the risk of complications and limits available options. Infection from a cracked tooth can spread to surrounding tissues, leading to abscess formation, bone loss, or systemic infection. In advanced cases, emergency intervention may be required to control pain and remove infected tissue.

Preventive measures can reduce the risk of cracked or chipped teeth. Wearing a mouthguard during sports, avoiding hard foods like ice or unpopped popcorn kernels, and managing teeth grinding with a nightguard are all recommended strategies. Regular dental checkups are also critical for monitoring teeth that have been previously restored or are at higher risk due to wear.

Cracks and chips may appear minor, but they are often the beginning of a larger dental issue. Timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment help preserve the tooth, prevent infection, and avoid more invasive procedures later. Recognizing the signs and seeking professional evaluation is the first step toward protecting oral health and preventing complications.

Morgan Thomas

Rhino Digital, LLC

+1 504-875-5036

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