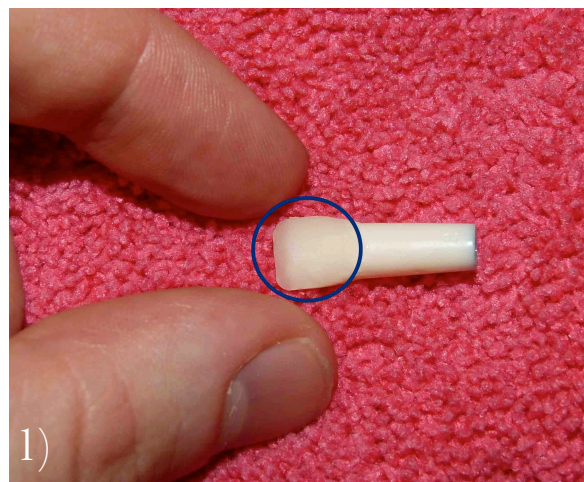


# Lost tooth (Avulsion)

## So you have lost a tooth? What next? Time to act!

- 1) If you can locate the tooth, **handle it only by the crown**. Do not handle the root of the tooth.
  - If you cannot locate the tooth, place a rolled-up gauze or bandage over the socket and place pressure on it by biting together for 20-30mins. This is to stop the bleeding.
- 2) If the tooth is dirty it should be **rinsed**, either in milk, saline (contact lens) solution or saliva. **NOT water** (where possible).
- 3) **Re-position** the tooth as closely as possible in the socket - try not to put the tooth “back-to-front.”
  - If the tooth was dirty when re-planted, consider a tetanus shot.
- 4) **Visit your dentist** as soon as possible. The tooth will need to be **splinted** to the neighbouring teeth (usually for 4 weeks) to help stabilise it.
- 5) **Soft diet** for a few weeks following this.
- 6) **Root canal treatment** is always required once the tooth is stabilised. The first stage can begin as soon as needed if there is an infection risk.



The longer a tooth is outside of its' socket, the less chance it will “re-attach” to the socket.

<30 minutes outside of the socket = 90% good prognosis

>60 minutes outside of the socket = only ~5-10% good prognosis!!

**GOOD LUCK - Contact Northbridge Dentists - 9958 7530**