



## Veneers

### What is a veneer?

A veneer is a thin layer of porcelain which is made to fit over the front surface of a tooth (similar to how a false fingernail fits over a nail). Usually veneers are made from porcelain, but they can be made from composite (white filling material).

### When would I need a veneer?

- Veneers can be made to improve the colour, shape and position of teeth. A shade is taken at your appointment which matches your existing teeth.
- Porcelain veneers can be used to repair broken teeth, in this case the porcelain would cover the whole of the front of the tooth with a thicker section of porcelain replacing the broken part.
- Veneers can be used to close small gaps in circumstances when orthodontic treatment is not a suitable option.



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## Advantages of veneers

- As veneers are individually made for each tooth, the appearance of teeth can be changed.
- Unlike natural teeth, veneers can resist coffee and tea stains, and cigarette smoke.
- With veneers (as opposed to having a crown) your natural teeth usually remain largely intact as a minimal amount of tooth enamel needs to be removed.
- Dentists may recommend veneers to remedy minor rotations, overlaps, and small gaps.

## Disadvantages of veneers

- A veneer is not considered a reversible treatment. Although adjustments and new veneers can be made, you can never return to the original condition of the tooth.
- After the porcelain veneers are cemented you may experience some sensitivity to hot and cold temperatures. This is due to the removal of a thin layer of enamel. The sensitivity usually disappears within a few days.
- Veneers are usually made from porcelain. Do not put unnecessary and excessive force on them. They can fracture.

## How are teeth prepared for a veneer?

It depends on the situation. Sometimes more enamel needs to be removed, at other times less or nothing at all. A local anaesthetic (injection) may be used to make sure that there is no discomfort, but often this is not needed. After the tooth has been prepared, the dentist will take an impression (mould) and the colour of the surrounding teeth is taken with a shade guide to ensure the correct shade is chosen for the veneer. The impression (and other relevant information) is then sent to a dental laboratory where a technician will make the veneer. As the preparation of the tooth is so slight you will probably not need a temporary veneer.



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### How long will it take?

A veneer takes at least two visits. The first is to prepare the tooth and match the shade, and the second is to fit it. The veneer will be tried in to check the fit and colour. If satisfactory, it will be bonded onto the tooth/teeth.

### How long will a veneer last?

Veneers should last for many years; but they can chip or break, just like your own teeth can. Your dental team will tell you how long each veneer should last. Small chips can be repaired, or a new veneer fitted if necessary. If you have a habit of grinding or clenching your teeth, your dentist may fit you with a night time bite guard to reduce the risk of damage.

### Finding out more is easy...

To find out more, or to book in for a consultation, simply give us a call on the number below or email us:



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