



Veneer preparations

The procedure

The dentist will remove a thin layer of enamel from the front surface and tip of the tooth.

Local anaesthetic may be required for this.

The dentist takes a desired shade to make sure the veneer matches the other teeth.

Impressions are taken with a putty-like substance and sent to a highly skilled technician where they make the porcelain veneer.

The dentist will then make a temporary veneer that is placed over the front of the tooth to protect it while the permanent veneer is made (usually about 2 weeks).

The veneer is cemented onto the tooth with a strong resin.

The bite is checked and the dentist removes any excess resin cement.



Am I suitable?

If you are not happy with the appearance of your teeth and you think veneers might be suitable for you, please call and your dentist will be pleased to discuss with you what your options are. He will make sure you are aware if there are any less invasive alternatives, and can show you on models exactly what the procedure involves.



The Elms Dental Practice

01425612111

www.theelmsdentalpractice.co.uk

Porcelain Veneers



What are they?

A veneer is a thin layer of tooth coloured material that is bonded onto the front of the tooth to improve its appearance. Your dentist can place these if a tooth is damaged, malformed or badly discoloured.



Veneers placed on two front teeth

Sometimes teeth can be malformed, become discoloured or fracture. Your dentist may offer you the option of having a porcelain veneer to restore the tooth to make it look more aesthetically pleasing. Porcelain veneers however are one of a range of treatments available to treat teeth that are un-aesthetic.

If between you and your dentist, you do decide that the most appropriate treatment is to have veneers, it is essential you are aware that the treatment is irreversible. Like all restorative dental treatments there will be maintenance and repair costs in years to come. There is a biological cost (as well as a financial one) when the outer layer of enamel of the tooth is removed for cosmetic benefit!

The main benefits in having porcelain veneers are that they can:

- Hide imperfections
- Provide a less invasive alternative to crowns
- Restore shape to a malformed tooth
- Mask a badly discoloured tooth
- Cover a tooth that has been affected by erosion preventing sensitivity.

Remember though that veneers are an elective procedure whose benefits are cosmetic rather than health related so you may wish to think very carefully before deciding to embark on such treatment.

FAQ's

How long do they last?

Veneers may last for many years, but the truth is they will not last forever. Recent studies show a success rate of up to 70% at 5 years.

Can they be replaced or repaired?

Yes, either with a new veneer or sometimes a crown. If a veneer falls off the dentist can sometimes stick it back on. Sometimes they can be repaired.

Is it a reversible treatment?

No, your dentist has to remove a thin layer of your natural enamel (approx 0.5 mm). This can never be put back.

Does it damage the teeth?

Yes, sometimes a tooth can suffer sensitivity or loss of vitality, which could mean a root filling, may be needed.

Are there any alternatives?

In most situations there are alternatives such as orthodontics (if the teeth are crooked), tooth whitening, or even bonding white filling materials to the tooth surface. All of these are potentially less invasive than veneers.