

How much will it cost?

The costs for this treatment can vary from practice to practice so it is important to discuss charges and treatment options with your dental team before starting treatment.

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 and how to adapt to prevent such fractures. Small chips can be repaired, or a new veneer fitted if necessary.

What about alternatives?

A natural-coloured filling material can be used for minor repairs to front teeth. This is excellent when the tooth can support a filling, but may not work so well for broken tooth corners. There will always be a join between the tooth and the filling material which may be accentuated by tooth staining food and drinks.

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Veneers

Veneers are ultra-thin, tooth-coloured facings specially made to fit the front of a problem tooth or teeth. When applied to damaged teeth, veneers can enhance the appearance, strength, and durability of the tooth. They are especially useful for repairing chipped, cracked, or worn teeth.

Conventional veneers

A veneer is a thin “false fingernail” of porcelain, ceramic or acrylic which is permanently bonded to the surface of the tooth.

Veneers are used to change the colour and shape of teeth. Often multiple veneers are used to completely change a smile, sometimes with the dentist having to prepare only minimal tooth substance. In some cases local anaesthetic is needed.

Are conventional veneers a good choice for me?

Veneers are used for a number of reasons, these include:

- Correcting stained and coloured teeth
- Restoring chipped or broken teeth
- Improving the appearance of teeth with aesthetic defects or misaligned teeth
- Closing the gaps between widely spaced teeth

Effectively veneers are similar to false fingernails and an illusion is created without destroying tooth substance underneath. Veneers can change a person’s attitude to their appearance.

It is common that patients previously unwilling to smile without showing teeth will smile happily after veneers.

When would I need a veneer?

Veneers can improve the colour, shape and position of your teeth. A precise shade of porcelain can be chosen to give the right colour to improve a single discoloured tooth or to lighten your front teeth. A veneer can make a chipped tooth look whole again.

The porcelain covers the whole of the front of the tooth, with a thicker section replacing the broken part. Veneers can also be used to close small gaps, when orthodontics (braces) are not suitable. If one tooth is slightly out of position, a veneer can sometimes be fitted to bring it into line with the others.

What are the advantages of veneers?

Veneers make teeth look natural and healthy. As they are very thin and are held in place by a special, strong adhesive, very little preparation of the tooth is needed. Some types of veneers don’t need any preparation at all.

How are teeth prepared for a veneer?

Some of the shiny, outer enamel surface of the tooth may be removed, to make sure that the veneer can be bonded permanently in place later. The amount of enamel removed is tiny and will be the same as the thickness of the veneer to be fitted, so that the tooth stays the same size.

A local anaesthetic (injection) may be used to make sure that there is no discomfort, but often this is not needed.

Once the tooth has been prepared, the dental team will take an ‘impression’ (mould). This

will be given to the dental technician, along with any other information needed to make the veneer. Some dentists may possess Cad/Cam technology in their practices, which allows them to manufacture the veneer in their practice.

The colour of the surrounding teeth is matched on a shade guide to make sure that the veneer will look entirely natural.

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. If the dentist manufactures the veneer in-house, it is likely to be available the same day.

Before bonding it in place, your dentist will show you the veneer on your tooth to make sure you are happy with it. Bonding a veneer in place is done with a special adhesive, which holds it firmly on the tooth.

Will I need a temporary veneer between visits?

As the preparation of the tooth is so slight you will probably not need a temporary veneer. The tooth will look very much the same after preparation, but will feel slightly less smooth.

What happens after the veneer is fitted?

Only minor adjustments can be made to the veneer after it is fitted. It is usually best to wait a little while to get used to it before any changes are made.

Your dental team will probably want to check and polish it a week or so after it is fitted, and make sure that you are happy with it.