

VENEER

A veneer is an extremely natural looking dental restoration that covers the outside or visible surface of teeth. A veneer can change shape and color of a tooth as well as hide defects. It is bonded into place and cannot be taken off.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What material is in a Veneer?**

Veneers are made of very thin tooth-colored porcelain.



Thinnest porcelain restorations

2. **What are the benefits of having a Veneer?**

- Veneers can change the size, shape and color of teeth.
- Veneers are porcelain and will not stain.
- Veneers remove minimal tooth structure and are the most conservative porcelain restoration



Remove minimal tooth structure

3. **What are the risks of having a Veneer?**

In having a veneer, some inherent risks exist both to the tooth and to the veneer itself. The risks to the tooth are:

- Preparation for a veneer permanently alters the tooth underneath the veneer.
- If the cement seal at the edge of the veneer is lost, decay may form at the juncture of the veneer and tooth.
- Preparing for and placing a veneer can irritate the tooth and cause "post-operative" sensitivity which may last for up to 3 months.
- Teeth which have had veneers may need root canal treatment less than 1% of the time during the lifetime of the tooth.



The risks to the veneer are:

- Porcelain may chip over time.
- If the tooth needs a root canal after the veneer is permanently cemented, the procedure may fracture the veneer and the veneer may need to be replaced.



Improve color and shape of teeth

4. **What are the alternatives to Veneers?**

Alternatives to placing a veneer are to either leave the tooth as is or to place a composite restoration. Composite restorations remove decay but are limited because they will stain more and do not change the size and color of teeth as well as veneers.



5. **How can an existing bite affect a Veneer?**

Bite problems may lead to the veneer chipping or breaking.



Close spaces between teeth

6. **Are there any post treatment limitations once I have a Veneer?**

- Porcelain on a veneer may have a good color match with adjacent natural teeth when the veneer is placed but less of a match as your natural teeth age.
- A veneer may chip or break if used for abnormal activities (e.g. biting fishing line, sewing thread, biting finger nails, opening bottles).