



Veneers

Patient Information

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What Are Veneers?

Veneers are thin sheets of porcelain ceramic, bonded permanently to the front surfaces of teeth - rather like "false fingernails" for the teeth. Veneers are an excellent way to correct discoloration, slight rotation, poor tooth shape, and chipping of the teeth. They are cheaper and more conservative than crowns, which are usually used for much weaker teeth.

How Are They Made?

Veneers have about 1 mm of thickness, so to allow a normal shape for the final result, the same thickness of tooth enamel must be removed from the front of the tooth. This makes the process of tooth veneering irreversible - it can't be "undone".

Once the front of the teeth are shaped, impressions (moulds) are taken, and the desired colour is determined with the patient. The laboratory takes about a week to make the final veneers, so a temporary covering may be placed on the front of the teeth. The veneers are fitted, and cemented into place on the second appointment.

How Strong Are Veneers?

Very strong, in the same way as ceramic floor tiles - fragile when loose in the hand, but very durable once cemented into place.

How Long Do They Last?

Many years, but not forever. A typical lifetime for veneers is about 8-12 years; lifetime varies with heaviness of the bite, presence of trauma, and how the patient cares for them.

How do I maintain them?

Essentially the same way you should treat your other teeth. Eat anything you normally would, but don't use your front teeth as a tool - no opening packages or bottles, please! And keep them clean, to avoid decay and gum problems around them. In general, people who maintain their other teeth well can expect a many satisfied years with ceramic veneers.