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ALBERT PLACE
DENTAL REFERRAL CENTRE

Veneers



Veneers

What is a veneer?

A veneer is a thin layer of tooth-coloured material that is put onto the front of the tooth to improve its appearance. This is done because the tooth might have been damaged by decay or an accident, or might be badly discoloured for some reason.

Why 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 or stained tooth or to lighten front teeth generally. A veneer can make a chipped tooth look intact 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 benefits?

Veneers can greatly improve your appearance. They hide imperfections, and you lose very little natural tooth material.

Veneers also protect teeth from any more damage. Tooth surface can be dissolved away by acid in the mouth (usually from too frequent consumption of certain kinds of food and drink), which can make teeth very sensitive to hot and cold. In this situation, veneers can protect the teeth.

If the tooth is strong, a veneer is often a better option than a crown for improving a tooth's appearance.



Before

How much will it cost?

The costs of this treatment can vary. Such treatment is complex and often requires careful planning. This means that the costs may not be low, but the result will be predictable and accurate.

How long will it take?

A veneer takes at least two visits; the first to prepare the tooth and to match the shade, and the second to fit it. 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.

How long will a veneer last?

Veneers should last for many years, but they can chip or break, just as your own teeth can. Your dentist will tell you how long each individual veneer should last. Small chips can be repaired, or a new veneer fitted if necessary.

Are there alternatives to veneers?

A natural-coloured filling material can be used for minor repairs to front teeth. This is excellent where the tooth supports 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.

Crowns are used for teeth which need to be strengthened - either because they have broken, have been weakened by a very large filling, or have had root canal treatment.

Tooth whitening may be an ideal alternative if your main aim is simply to improve the colour.

Please ask if you require more information about these alternatives. There are also leaflets about these treatment options for you to read.



After