

Porcelain Veneers

1. What are porcelain veneers?

Porcelain veneers are wafer-thin shells of porcelain which are bonded onto the front side of the teeth to make a cosmetic improvement in their appearance. Porcelain veneers are indicated for teeth that are discolored, worn, chipped, or misaligned.

2. What are the advantages of porcelain veneers?

- a) **Porcelain veneers create a very life-like tooth appearance** - Because they are glass-like, they have a great advantage over other types of cosmetic dental procedure. When they are bonded onto a tooth's surface they mimic the light handling characteristics of enamel.
- b) **Porcelain veneers resist staining** - Since porcelain is a ceramic, and therefore glass-like, its surface is extremely smooth and impervious. This means that the surface of a porcelain veneer will resist picking-up permanent stains from tea, coffee, red wine and cigarettes.
- c) There is less tooth enamel removed during the tooth preparation process compared to a "full crown". The 'tongue side' of the tooth remains untouched and only the front surface of the tooth is drilled down by a millimetre or so.

3. What are the disadvantages of porcelain veneers?

- a) Some tooth reduction is required.
- b) Porcelain veneers require at least 2 visits to complete. They are fabricated by a dental laboratory and impressions of the prepared teeth must be sent to the lab. The patient wears temporary 'plastic veneers' for up to 2 weeks while the lab fabricates the porcelain veneers. On occasion, the temporaries can become dislodged requiring recementation with temporary cement.
- c) On a long term basis they are more durable than resin veneers, but not as strong as full crowns. Porcelain veneers can chip and although uncommon can become dislodged requiring recementation or replacement.
- d) They are more expensive than resin veneers.



Porcelain Veneers - Before



Porcelain Veneers - After