

Porcelain Veneers

SOMETIMES FRONT TEETH MAY BE A LITTLE DARK, SPACED OR HAVE A FEW OLD FILLINGS THAT HAVE BECOME STAINED AND DISCOLOURED. A BEAUTIFUL RENEWAL OPTION IS TO PLACE PORCELAIN VENEERS.

When teeth have been filled before, it is not always recommended to simply replace older, larger fillings, as the teeth may eventually become “more filling than tooth”! In such instances, it may be advisable to consider a “veneer” or “facing” on the tooth. In these circumstances, porcelain is the material of choice as it is as hard and durable as enamel.

Treating a tooth with a veneer is like resurfacing the front of the tooth rather than fully capping over it as would occur with a crown. People often think of veneers as being similar to the concept of a false fingernail. False nails are glued to the front of the real nail which remains underneath. The result is that the natural nail remains relatively unchanged, but it gains a new appearance. Veneers provide the same effect for teeth, but last much longer. The tooth underneath is not significantly altered, but with the veneer in place, it can now have a new shape, size and colour. The results can be quite beautiful, and very natural.

Veneers also achieve many of the benefits of crowns, and are normally a much more conservative procedure. In some instances, “extended veneers” can be used to restore more than just the front of a tooth, again avoiding the need for a full crown.

Veneers can be made from porcelain or from composite resin (a reinforced plastic). Porcelain veneers are made in a similar fashion to crowns. The teeth must first be re-shaped and an impression is then made. Plastic temporary veneers are fitted and our Dental Ceramist will work with the impression to make the final porcelain veneers. A few weeks later, the veneers are ready to be fitted onto the teeth. Porcelain veneers are beautiful restorations that can look amazingly natural. When appropriately cared for, they should last at least 10 to 15 years.

Veneers can also be made from composite resin, which is a type of hardened plastic. Composites will normally be applied in one, longer appointment, and a second, shorter, polish-up appointment will be required one week later. Composites are a cost effective alternative to porcelain, and will usually last around 8-10 years before slowly losing their shine and colour. With annual review appointments, composites can be renewed by surface polishing or by re-coating their surfaces with new composite resin, to prolong their longevity.

At Brisbane Prosthodontics, we always work with the latest and best composite resins and the finest Dental Ceramists to ensure that we provide the very best veneers. We do not outsource our cases to overseas laboratories. The cost of a veneer will vary depending on the material it is made from, and the number of appointments required to create it. The cosmetic nature of the case, and the overall treatment involving the other surrounding teeth, may also influence the cost, and number of appointments required. Rest assured whichever material you choose, we will give you the best results possible, with the most conservative techniques. Our goal is to make your smile perfect!



perfect smiles