

Problem solvers article 6
Main Term: Dental Veneers

Synonyms: Lumineers, minimal prep- veneers, feldspathic veneers,

Meta Description:

In today's society, people are very aware of how their smiles influence their overall appearance. When people have spaces, gaps, chipped teeth, discolored fillings or small teeth they may want to change their appearance with dental veneers.

Article Headline:

Are dental veneers safe? What kinds of veneers are there and how long do they last?

Article DEK

Dental veneers can be an effective way to change the appearance of teeth. They can be made out of a composite resin or porcelain. The veneer is a covering for your tooth that can change the shape, color and overall appearance of your teeth. In the right instances they can be a wonderful way to improve your smile.

Body Copy:

Dental veneers have become a popular cosmetic option for patients. The veneer is a thin laminate or covering that usually requires some tooth structure removal. The process of receiving a veneer involves diagnosing the reasons for the veneer, the number of teeth required to affect change and the goals for the treatment.

If a dentist feels that a veneer can be done to close spaces or build up a smile without drilling on the teeth, the result is a "minimal preparation veneer." These veneers can offer smile modification without removal of enamel or the outer covering of a tooth.

If a stain or discoloration is present, the dentist must remove .5mm of tooth structure or more to give space for a dental laboratory technician to build color into a thin piece of porcelain, which will in turn be cemented on to your tooth.

How long will veneers last? Typically they will last from 7-10 years but they can last longer if they are cared for properly. Can they fail sooner? Yes, if teeth are used as tools, to open up bags of potato chips or if chewing on ribs is done too aggressively, then a veneer can chip or crack which would require removing the veneer and replacing it at an additional cost.

I lost my veneer, what should I do? Well first you would find the veneer and attempt to not swallow the piece! Then the dentist can determine if the veneer can be

recemented. It will require some anesthetic, then using some air abrasion to roughen the porcelain and the tooth may occur. Lastly, a strong composite cement can be used to recement the porcelain piece.

Can the dentist repair the broken veneer? Yes a dentist may attempt to either recement a broken fragment or they may use composite resin (tooth colored filling material) to build up the missing piece. This may last weeks, months or years but there is no guarantee that a repair will last long term.

I just had veneers cemented and now they don't look right, what should I do? Well, as dentists always remind patients: Once a patient approves a veneer for cementation, they cannot be removed. So make sure you like them before giving the o.k. to put them on permanently. If the patient is not happy after the fact, it is very stressful for everyone! So the patient would have to discuss this with the dentist to see if the situation can be resolved. This may be to have the patient pay a percentage of the new veneer cost. Each time a veneer is made, there are costs associated with fabricating the veneer, materials and supplies as well as the doctor's chairtime, which can involve substantial costs to the dentist. Usually a dentist will always work with the patient to give the patient a result they can be proud of.

Are composite or porcelain veneers better?

While porcelain veneers are the prettiest, they are the hardest to replace or repair. Sometimes a tooth colored filling (composite resin) can be used as a trial veneer to see if a patient will be happy with the proposed changes. This technique allows a patient to "test drive" their veneer before moving on to an irreversible procedure.