

porcelain veneers

What is a diagnostic wax up?

If you are planning to have a number of veneers the dentist may decide to make a model of the teeth, showing the proposed veneers, made from tooth-coloured wax. This gives you the chance to see how veneers will look before treatment starts and it provides the dentist with the opportunity to calculate the best shape and tooth preparation needed. There is usually an additional cost for the diagnostic wax up and the dentist will give you a written estimate and a treatment plan before treatment starts.

Before



With porcelain veneers



Photos courtesy of Ivoclar Vivodent.



INFORMATION
FOR PATIENTS

For a beautiful smile

porcelain veneers

*Transform your smile with
the natural look of porcelain*

What are porcelain veneers?

Porcelain veneers are thin coverings of porcelain, custom-made to improve the appearance of your teeth. Once bonded to the tooth, a porcelain veneer becomes strong, natural looking and long-lasting. If you have gaps between the teeth, chips, cracks or discolouration, veneers could dramatically improve your smile.

Which teeth should be veneered?

The dentist will help you to decide which teeth might benefit from a porcelain veneer. Whilst it is not uncommon to have as many as six front teeth treated, sometimes just one or two may be required. Usually it is the smile line that would most benefit, and so only those teeth that show are veneered.

How are veneers made?

Your dentist will start by removing a thin layer of enamel (usually about 1mm) from the surface of the teeth to be treated. An impression is then taken and temporary veneers fitted. A dental technician creates the veneers by hand, they are individually designed to match the shape, colour and contour of your natural teeth. At the second visit, about a week to ten days

later, your dentist will bond the finished veneers in place. They become strong instantly and you will be able to eat with them immediately after the treatment.

How long do veneers last?

Porcelain does not stain and the bond between the tooth and the veneer is very strong. In most cases you should expect a veneer to last 5 years or more and they have been known to last for over 8 years. Generally the tooth underneath the veneer discolours with time and this is the most common reason for replacing them. In a small number of cases a veneer may de-bond or chip. In this situation your dentist will be able to fit a replacement.

How do I care for my new veneers?

Porcelain veneers need no special care. As with all aspects of oral health, good dental hygiene is important and this will help to increase the life of the veneers. As always you should avoid biting hard objects such as finger nails, and pins. Regular check-ups with the dentist and hygienist are essential to maintain the health of your teeth and gums.

