

POND SQUARE DENTAL

PATIENT INFORMATION

VENEERS

Most of us have heard of dental veneers. Veneers are usually made of a dental ceramic, and are used to improve the appearance of teeth. Some common examples of when veneers can be used are:

- Masking discoloured teeth
- Making uneven look straight
- Changing the shape of teeth
- Closing spaces between teeth
- Making teeth look straighter
- Replacing previous veneers
- Making large teeth look smaller and vice versa

Before veneers are placed, your teeth and gums must be in a healthy condition.

The process of making a veneer can be simple or quite involved, and this varies simply due to the starting position of your teeth, your bite and the degree of change required.

In most cases the teeth to be veneered need to be shaped to allow room for the veneer to be placed. This will usually happen with local anaesthetic (ie your teeth will be numb). Impressions or moulds of your teeth are taken and temporary veneers are placed. The temporary veneers will be quite delicate and you will need to be careful with what you eat during this period. Two to three weeks later the new veneers are cemented in place.

Sometimes we may need to spend time planning or preparing for treatment, and this may involve:

- Taking moulds or scans of your teeth and setting them on a jaw replicator, allowing us to analyse your bite
- Whitening some or all of your teeth before hand
- Placing provisional veneers to assess colour matches and/or assessing how the veneers work in your bite
- Evening up the line or contour of the gums
- Using a brace to even up the teeth and/or change your bite
- Using a brace to make space for the veneers so the teeth don't have to be drilled at all
- Make changes to your bite (usually only if your teeth are quite worn)

LOVE YOUR SMILE

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In some cases the colour can be very difficult to match. It may take several appointments to achieve the best outcome. Where there is a single veneer being placed it may not be possible to have a perfect match – in such a case it may have to be accepted a perfect match is not possible or more veneers are placed.

Veneers last, on average, 7-10 years. Yours may last less time or longer. Common reasons for veneers failing include:

- Chipping or fracture – part of the veneer cracks or falls off
- Staining
- Tooth decay
- Loss of the veneer (ie the veneer falls off)
- Loss of lustre – the veneer no longer looks as good as it once did You can help improve the lifespan of a veneer by:
 - Being careful with what you eat
 - Wear a bite guard or splint
 - Attending for bi-annual dental check ups
 - Attending the hygienist every 3-6 months (as required) and ensuring you are diligent in cleaning your teeth at home

COSTS

Veneers cost from £1300 per veneer. Any additional treatments, as listed above, carry an additional cost that will be itemised in advance.

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