Composite Veneers in Melbourne | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/cosmetic/composite-and-porcelain-veneers/composite-veneers/

Details:

Composite veneers are thin shells of composite resin, a tooth-coloured white filling material, bonded directly to the front surfaces of your teeth to improve their appearance, position, shape and shade. At Core Dental we offer composite veneers at our Melbourne clinics as a conservative cosmetic option, because very little of your natural tooth is removed. Treatment is usually completed in a single appointment. Whether composite veneers suit you depends on an examination of your teeth and your goals, and results vary for each person. We give you a written quote before treatment starts.

What are composite veneers?

Composite veneers are a cosmetic dental treatment made from composite resin, the same type of white filling material we use for tooth-coloured fillings. We build the veneer directly on the tooth rather than having it made in a laboratory. They are used to improve the shape, length, position and shade of a tooth, and are often chosen for subtle concerns such as minor chips, discolouration or mild alignment correction.

We describe composite veneers as conservative because little of the underlying natural tooth needs to be removed during treatment. They sit alongside our other cosmetic dentistry options, including porcelain veneers , dental crowns and teeth whitening .

How are composite veneers placed?

Your dentist follows these steps:

First we assess the tooth to make sure enough natural tooth structure is present to accept the restoration.

If necessary, we prepare the underlying tooth so the veneer will adhere. This usually requires very little removal of natural tooth.

We apply the white filling material in layers, and harden each layer with a Bluephase LED curing light.

We repeat the layering until the length, width and shade you and your dentist have agreed are achieved.

The whole procedure is carried out in a single treatment session, so you see the cosmetic change straight away without waiting for laboratory work.

Who is suitable for composite veneers, and who may not be?

Your dentist assesses your teeth, gums and bite, and may request imaging, before recommending any option. Composite veneers need enough healthy natural tooth to bond to. Untreated decay or gum disease usually needs attention first, and other treatments such as whitening, crowns or orthodontics may suit some goals better. Because composite is a conservative option, it is often considered for younger patients, as it leaves the choice of porcelain veneers open later in life. Composite veneers are reversible in a way that porcelain is not: the composite can be removed later and replaced with

porcelain veneers if you wish, whereas moving from porcelain back to composite is not possible in the same way.

What are the risks and limitations of composite veneers?

All dental treatment carries risks, and your dentist will explain the material risks before you decide. Composite is not as strong as porcelain, so signs of wear and discolouration may show sooner. Composite can chip, wear or stain, and it may need polishing, repair or replacement over time. Veneers do not stop the underlying tooth from decaying. Because composite suits more subtle changes, it may not be the right choice for larger changes to a smile. Results, recovery and longevity vary for each individual.

How do you care for composite veneers?

We recommend ongoing maintenance about every six months, for polishing, checking and restoring the edges of the veneers if they wear. A good hygiene routine matters: brush with fluoride toothpaste twice a day, floss, and see your dental hygienist for a scale and clean. The composite itself cannot decay, but the natural tooth underneath still can, particularly where the tooth is exposed at the edges of the veneer. Your dentist will explain any special care for your new restorations and any follow-up appointments.

How much do composite veneers cost, and how can you pay?

The cost of dental treatment varies between patients depending on the complexity of the procedure, the number of teeth involved and who performs it, and no two mouths are the same. Composite veneers generally cost less than porcelain veneers at the outset, although ongoing maintenance and replacement over time are part of the overall cost. Your dentist cannot usually give an exact cost until they have examined your teeth. We do not publish a veneer price here, and we give you a written treatment plan and quote before treatment begins.

For larger treatment we offer interest-free payment plans through Payright, for amounts up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months with fortnightly repayments, subject to eligibility and Payright's approval. Applicants need to be 18 or over, an Australian permanent resident with identification and a verifiable email address and mobile number. TLC personal loans from $2,001 to $50,000 over up to 84 months are also available, with the interest rate set by credit assessment. Terms were published as at September 2026, so please confirm them before you proceed. HICAPS on-site claiming is available, and your own level of cover determines what you can claim.

Where can you have composite veneers at Core Dental?

Veneers are listed among the cosmetic treatments at Southbank , South Melbourne , Caroline Springs , Carrum Downs , Epping , Wyndham , Berwick and Glenferrie . Please confirm availability with your preferred clinic when you book.

Who provides composite veneers at Core Dental?

Our general dentists provide cosmetic dentistry at our clinics, and our team of dentists, hygienists and registered specialists reviews cases together as part of treatment planning. You can see our practitioners on our dentists and registered specialists page, and you can check any practitioner's registration on the AHPRA register at ahpra.gov.au.

What the material is, and where it sits among filling materials

Composite veneers are made of the same material used for tooth-coloured fillings, and seeing it in that company explains both its appeal and its limits.

The Victorian Department of Health's list of dental filling materials , verbatim: "composite resin (also known as 'tooth-coloured' fillings)"; "glass-ionomer cement"; "dental amalgam (also known as 'silver' fillings, rarely used)"; "gold (rarely used due to cost)"; "porcelain."

And its position on choosing between them , which is situational rather than a ranking: "Each different material has benefits and limitations. Some types of material may be better than others in certain situations. Your oral health professional can discuss your options with you."

That sentence is the honest answer to "which material is best": it depends on the situation, and the published advice declines to rank them.

What composite does as a cosmetic material. "Resin composite is a tooth-coloured material that is glued (bonded) onto the tooth." Its listed jobs are to repair "chips, holes or decay in the tooth", to replace "old fillings that have discoloured or broken", and to cover "up some defects on the surface of the tooth".

How it goes on, and why it is quick. "The resin composite material is placed directly on the tooth and set immediately with a light. The surface is polished smooth so your bite feels natural." And: "It is one of the fastest treatment options and is usually completed in one appointment." As a veneer: "For resin composite veneers, the material is placed directly on the tooth and polished smooth, usually in one visit."

Nothing is sent away, which is why there is no second appointment and no temporary.

Its two published limits. "It can chip or fall out and need replacing again", and "colour options are more limited so it may be hard to get a good match."

The second is the one people underestimate. A limited palette matters most on a front tooth beside a natural one, and it is a reason to discuss shade expectations before the appointment rather than in the chair.

On lifespan, there is no figure in the published material. What the Department says is that it "can chip or fall out and need replacing again", and more generally that "all fillings need to be replaced eventually. Regular dental check-ups can help ensure fillings that are worn out due to chewing are found and fixed." We are not going to publish a years figure, because no source we have read gives one.

Sources: Better Health Channel (Victorian Department of Health), Cosmetic dentistry and teeth whitening, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 12 December 2025); Dental fillings, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 1 August 2025). Both accessed 6 November 2026.

If it chips or comes off, and what keeps it on longer

Because the published risk is that composite "can chip or fall out", it is worth knowing in advance what to do and what reduces the chance.

If it comes off. The Department's instruction for fillings is direct: "Fillings also sometimes fall out. If part of your filling breaks off or if your whole filling falls out, see your oral health professional as soon as possible."

As soon as possible, rather than at the next check-up. The exposed tooth surface underneath is what makes it time-sensitive.

What the material is protecting against in the first place. "Dental fillings are used to repair worn, decayed or damaged teeth. They are made from materials that can 'fill' in parts of a damaged tooth and then be set hard." With an honest limit: "Dental fillings cannot completely repair all damage to teeth but may be necessary to maintain the tooth structure and keep teeth doing their important job."

And the point that reframes the whole category. "An intact tooth is stronger than a filled one, so it's important to try and avoid fillings due to tooth decay." Also: "Finding decay in the early stages means less of your tooth needs to be repaired in the process of getting a filling."

What the Department says prevents further damage. Its prevention list is short: "brushing your teeth twice a day"; "using fluoride toothpaste"; "enjoying a wide variety of nutritious foods"; "choosing tap water over sugary drinks".

And the warning that applies specifically to a restored tooth. "Just filling a hole will not stop tooth decay from occurring in other areas of the mouth or around the new filling." Around the new filling — which is why cleaning the margins matters more than cleaning anywhere else.

On cleaning between teeth, where those margins often sit: "It is important to clean between teeth where a toothbrush can't reach. Products such as floss and interdental brushes can remove plaque from between your teeth." Without one of those, "up to a third of each tooth doesn't get cleaned".

Acid changes how a restoration looks as well as how it holds. The Department notes that "fillings may become more prominent if the surrounding tooth surface is dissolving due to erosion". Its advice is to "reduce how often you eat or drink anything acidic and don't leave it sitting in your mouth for too long", and after an acid exposure to "wait at least 30 minutes ... before brushing your teeth".

Grinding is worth mentioning to your dentist. Among the Department's tips for minimising tooth wear is to "wear a custom-made dental splint if you grind your teeth at night" — relevant where the known risk is chipping.

Whitening will not change the material. "Tooth decay, fillings, crowns, bridges, veneers, false teeth and some types of discolouration do not whiten", so whitening the surrounding teeth alters the match rather than improving it.

And the home-care commitment the Department asks you to weigh beforehand. "Most cosmetic dental treatment requires extra care at home to prevent tooth decay, gum disease or other problems. Cleaning the area well and having a healthy diet is essential."

Sources: Better Health Channel (Victorian Department of Health), Dental fillings, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 1 August 2025); Cosmetic dentistry and teeth whitening, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 12 December 2025); Teeth and mouth care, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 25 July 2025); Tooth decay, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 28 June 2025); Dental erosion, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 22 October 2025). All accessed 6 November 2026.

Frequently asked questions

How long does it take to get composite veneers?

The entire composite veneer procedure is usually completed in a single appointment, so you see the change immediately. Your dentist will first assess your teeth and confirm the treatment plan and quote with you.

Can composite veneers be replaced with porcelain later?

Yes. The composite can be removed and replaced with porcelain veneers later if you wish. Moving the other way, from porcelain back to composite, is not possible in the same way because the tooth has been prepared.

Do composite veneers need maintenance?

Yes. We recommend a check about every six months for polishing and checking the edges, as composite is not as strong as porcelain and can show wear or discolouration sooner. Your dentist will advise on follow-up.

Are composite veneers suitable for younger patients?

They are often considered for younger patients because very little tooth is removed, which keeps the option of porcelain veneers open later. Your dentist will assess whether they suit you or your child.

What are composite veneers made of?

The same material as tooth-coloured fillings. The Victorian Department of Health: "Resin composite is a tooth-coloured material that is glued (bonded) onto the tooth." Its filling-material list calls it "composite resin (also known as 'tooth-coloured' fillings)".

How are they placed?

"For resin composite veneers, the material is placed directly on the tooth and polished smooth, usually in one visit." As a filling material it is "placed directly on the tooth and set immediately with a light", and "the surface is polished smooth so your bite feels natural".

Why is it quicker than porcelain?

Nothing is sent away to be made. The Department calls resin composite "one of the fastest treatment options", "usually completed in one appointment", while for ceramic "a mould (impression or digital scan) of the tooth is taken and sent to a lab for the ceramic to be custom-made. A second appointment is usually needed to glue in the ceramic."

What are the limitations?

Two: "It can chip or fall out and need replacing again", and "colour options are more limited so it may be hard to get a good match." The shade limit matters most on a front tooth next to a natural one.

Is composite weaker than porcelain?

The published advice does not rank materials. Its position is situational: "Each different material has benefits and limitations. Some types of material may be better than others in certain situations. Your oral health professional can discuss your options with you."

How long do they last?

No source we have read gives a figure. The Department says the material "can chip or fall out and need replacing again", and that "all fillings need to be replaced eventually. Regular dental check-ups can help ensure fillings that are worn out due to chewing are found and fixed."

What should I do if one chips or falls off?

Not wait. "Fillings also sometimes fall out. If part of your filling breaks off or if your whole filling falls out, see your oral health professional as soon as possible."

Does composite protect the tooth from decay?

No. "Just filling a hole will not stop tooth decay from occurring in other areas of the mouth or around the new filling." The margins are where cleaning matters most, and without floss or an interdental brush "up to a third of each tooth doesn't get cleaned".

Do acidic drinks affect them?

They affect the tooth around them. The Department notes that "fillings may become more prominent if the surrounding tooth surface is dissolving due to erosion", and advises reducing "how often you eat or drink anything acidic" and waiting "at least 30 minutes after the acid exposure before brushing your teeth".

Will grinding damage them?

It is a reasonable concern where the known risk is chipping. The Department's tips for minimising tooth wear include wearing "a custom-made dental splint if you grind your teeth at night".

Can they be whitened later?

No. "Tooth decay, fillings, crowns, bridges, veneers, false teeth and some types of discolouration do not whiten."

What is the ongoing commitment?

Home care, which the Department asks you to weigh before starting: "Most cosmetic dental treatment requires extra care at home to prevent tooth decay, gum disease or other problems. Cleaning the area well and having a healthy diet is essential."

Related services and further reading

Composite and porcelain veneers

Porcelain veneers

Cosmetic dentistry at Core Dental

Dental crowns

Teeth whitening

Why would I need dental veneers?

What is the difference between porcelain and composite veneers?

Dental payment plans

Our dentists and registered specialists

Core Dental at a glance

Nine Core Dental clinics across Melbourne: Southbank, South Melbourne, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Wyndham, Berwick, Bayside and Glenferrie.

Open six days a week: Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings.

Interest-free payment plans, HICAPS on-site claiming and bulk billing for eligible children under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

Invisalign Blue Diamond provider, as stated on coredental.com.au.

Call 13 13 16 or book online.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16
Online booking	Book Now at coredental.com.au
Hours	Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, Saturday 8.00am to 1.30pm (Bayside Saturday 8.30am to 1.30pm), Sunday closed
Clinics	Southbank , South Melbourne , Caroline Springs , Carrum Downs , Epping , Wyndham , Berwick , Bayside , Glenferrie

Results, recovery times and potential risks vary for each individual. This information is general in nature and is intended for people over 18. Seek advice from a qualified, AHPRA-registered practitioner before proceeding.

What are composite veneers at Core Dental?

At Core Dental, composite veneers are thin shells of tooth-coloured composite resin bonded directly to the front of a tooth to improve its shape, position and shade. Very little natural tooth is removed. Suitability needs a dental examination.

Why does Core Dental describe composite veneers as conservative?

We describe composite veneers as conservative because very little of the underlying natural tooth is removed during treatment, and the composite can be removed and replaced later, including with porcelain veneers if you wish.

How does Core Dental place composite veneers?

Your Core Dental dentist checks the tooth, prepares it if needed with very little removal, then applies white filling material in layers, hardening each with a Bluephase LED light until the length, width and shade are achieved.

Can composite veneers be completed in one visit at Core Dental?

Yes. Core Dental completes the composite veneer procedure in a single appointment, without laboratory fabrication, so you see the change immediately. Your dentist will confirm the plan and quote first.

How often do composite veneers need maintenance at Core Dental?

We recommend maintenance about every six months for polishing, checking and restoring the edges if they wear. Composite is not as strong as porcelain, so wear and discolouration may show sooner.

Are composite veneers reversible at Core Dental?

Composite can be removed later and replaced with porcelain veneers if you wish. Moving from porcelain back to composite is not possible in the same way. Your dentist will explain your options.

Which Core Dental clinics offer veneers?

Veneers are listed among the cosmetic treatments at Core Dental Southbank, South Melbourne, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Wyndham, Berwick and Glenferrie. Confirm availability with your clinic when you book.

How can I pay for composite veneers at Core Dental?

Core Dental offers interest-free Payright plans of up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months, subject to approval, plus HICAPS claiming on-site. We give a written quote first. Terms were published as at September 2026, so confirm them.