Composite and Porcelain Veneers | Core Dental

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

Details:

Dental veneers are thin, custom-made shells bonded to the front surface of your natural teeth to change their shape, position and shade. At Core Dental we offer both composite resin veneers and porcelain veneers at our Melbourne clinics, and we help you compare them before you decide. Whether 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 dental veneers?

Veneers are thin shells that we bond to the front surfaces of teeth to improve their position, shape and shade, and the overall appearance of a smile. They are typically made from either composite resin or porcelain. Composite resin is a white filling material, and porcelain is a hardened, translucent ceramic.

Veneers are a cosmetic option in a range of situations, including:

Aged veneers that need replacement

Spaces between teeth

Broken, crooked or badly chipped or worn teeth

Permanently stained or discoloured teeth

What is the difference between composite and porcelain veneers?

The key difference is the material. Composite veneers generally need minimal preparation of the natural teeth and can often be completed in a single appointment, so you see an immediate cosmetic change. They are typically a lower-cost option than porcelain. They are not as strong as porcelain, however. Composite is slightly porous, so it needs more regular maintenance, and it can lose its lustre and need polishing, or discolour and need replacing over time.

Porcelain veneers are made from a stronger material and may offer greater durability over time with appropriate care. They are often chosen for their appearance because porcelain can closely mimic natural tooth enamel, and it does not change colour or lose its shine in the way composite can. Porcelain veneers are made chair-side or in a laboratory after your initial consultation and are placed on a second visit.

You can read more on our pages for composite veneers and porcelain veneers .

How does the veneer procedure work?

For a composite veneer, your dentist first checks that there is enough natural tooth to accept the restoration. The tooth is prepared if necessary so the veneer will adhere, although composite veneers need very little of your tooth to be removed. White filling material is then applied in layers and hardened with a curing light. The process is repeated until the length, width and shade are achieved. This is done in one visit.

For a porcelain veneer, your dentist again checks that there is enough natural tooth. A thin layer of the tooth surface is then prepared to give the porcelain something to adhere to. A temporary veneer is placed while your porcelain veneer is made. About two weeks later, your dentist replaces the temporary with the porcelain veneer, checks the fit and attaches it permanently.

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

Your dentist assesses your teeth, gums and bite, and may request imaging, before recommending any option. Veneers need enough healthy natural tooth to bond to, and they are not suitable for every concern. Untreated decay or gum disease usually needs attention first, and other treatments such as whitening, crowns or orthodontics may suit some goals better. A composite veneer can be replaced with a porcelain veneer later. Because porcelain needs a surface prepared on your tooth, moving from porcelain back to composite is not possible in the same way.

What are the risks and limitations?

All dental treatment carries risks, and your dentist will explain the material risks before you decide. Preparing a tooth for a veneer changes the tooth, composite can chip, wear, stain and need repair or replacement, and porcelain can chip or need replacement over the years. Veneers also do not stop the underlying tooth from decaying. Results, recovery and longevity vary for each individual.

How do you care for veneers?

Your dentist will explain any special care for your new restorations and any follow-up appointments needed to check your progress. A good hygiene routine matters: brush with fluoride toothpaste twice a day, floss, and see your dental hygienist for a scale and clean. The porcelain or composite itself cannot decay, but the underlying teeth still can, particularly where they are exposed at the back and sometimes the sides and where they meet the veneers.

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

The cost of dental treatment varies between patients depending on the complexity of the procedure and who performs it, and no two mouths are the same. Your dentist cannot usually give an exact cost until they have examined your teeth. Porcelain veneers cost more than composite veneers. There are several costs involved, from X-rays to bonding the veneers and the material itself. 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.

Where can you have 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 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.

If whitening is part of your veneer plan, what rules apply?

Veneers and whitening are often discussed together, because veneers do not change colour once made and the surrounding natural teeth do. If whitening is going to happen first, there are legal limits on the product used and a requirement about the order of events.

The limits sit in the Poisons Standard. The Australian Dental Association sets them out: the Poisons Standard "recognises hydrogen peroxide 3-6% and carbamide peroxide 9-18% as Schedule 5 substances requiring 'Caution', meaning that teeth whitening products containing up to these concentrations can be sold direct to consumers if they are labelled with stipulated safety warnings." Above that, "Schedule 10 specifically states that teeth whitening products containing more than 6% hydrogen peroxide or 18% carbamide peroxide may only be sold, supplied and used by registered dental practitioners as part of their dental practise. These provisions are formalised in all state and territory poisons legislation."

The two thresholds differ because the chemicals do: the ADA notes that carbamide peroxide is about one third as strong, so "18% carbamide peroxide approximates 6% hydrogen peroxide."

On sequence, the ADA's position is that whitening "should only be performed if the treatment can be justified, and after a comprehensive dental examination has been conducted by a Dental Practitioner." For anyone planning veneers that matters doubly, because the shade your natural teeth settle at is what the veneers then have to be matched to. The ADA also records that the most common side effects are "transient tooth sensitivity and soft tissue irritation during or immediately following treatment".

There is a Victorian detail if a light or laser is proposed. The ADA cites "AS/NZS 4173:2018, Safe use of lasers and intense light sources in health care" as specifying requirements including training standards, and notes that while registered dental practitioners with appropriate training may use Class 4 lasers, "Western Australian, Queensland, Victorian, and Tasmania legislation requires that practitioners in these states first obtain a licence to do so from the appropriate state regulatory authority." Victoria is on that list.

Source: Australian Dental Association, Policy Statement 2.2.8, ada.org.au (last reviewed September 2025; accessed 3 November 2026).

Who may provide veneer treatment?

Veneers are irreversible on porcelain and near-irreversible in practice on composite, so this is worth understanding before you start.

There is no veneer specialty. What governs the work is the Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice registration standard, which requires that "dental practitioners must only perform dental treatment: a. for which they have been educated and trained, and b. in which they are competent." Competence is assessed for the particular case, and veneer cases vary enormously — a single discoloured tooth and a full upper arch being rebuilt are different undertakings.

Among the Board's thirteen recognised specialties, prosthodontics is the one concerned with restoring and replacing teeth. Specialist registration requires a qualification in the specialty, all the requirements for general registration as a dentist, and a minimum of two years general dental practice. Ahpra's

register records the specialty of any dentist with specialist registration, at ahpra.gov.au.

The Board is also clear that registration does not fix an individual's scope. Scope "depends on your education, qualifications, training, experience, and competence", and so "even within a division, your scope may vary from another practitioner's." Two general dentists with the same registration may take on very different veneer cases.

Three questions are worth asking before a veneer plan is agreed: how much tooth structure will be removed and whether that is reversible; how many cases like yours the clinician has done; and what happens if a veneer debonds or chips in the first year. The first of those is the one patients most often skip and most often regret.

Sources: Dental Board of Australia, Scope of practice registration standard, dentalboard.gov.au (effective 1 July 2020); Dental Board of Australia, Dental hygienist, dental therapist and oral health therapist, dentalboard.gov.au (page reviewed 18 March 2025). Both accessed 3 November 2026.

Frequently asked questions

How do I choose between composite and porcelain veneers?

Your choice may depend on the treatment process you prefer, your short-term budget and the outcome you want. Composite is bonded directly in one visit and costs less at first, while porcelain is stronger and needs less maintenance. Your dentist will advise you.

Can composite veneers be replaced with porcelain later?

Yes, a composite veneer can be removed and replaced with a porcelain veneer at a later stage. Moving the other way, from porcelain back to composite, is not possible in the same way because the tooth has been prepared.

How many visits do veneers take?

Composite veneers usually take one visit. Porcelain veneers take two main visits: the first to prepare the tooth and place a temporary veneer, and a second, about two weeks later, to fit the porcelain veneer.

Do veneers need special care?

Veneers need a good daily hygiene routine and regular scale and cleans, because the teeth beneath can still decay. Composite generally needs more regular maintenance and polishing than porcelain. Your dentist will advise you on follow-up.

Should whitening happen before veneers?

If whitening is part of the plan, the sequence matters, because veneers do not change colour once made and have to be matched to whatever shade your natural teeth settle at. The Australian Dental Association's position is that whitening should only be performed where the treatment can be justified and after a comprehensive dental examination by a dental practitioner. The order of events is a clinical decision for your dentist.

What whitening concentration can be used?

Under the Poisons Standard as described by the ADA, products up to 6% hydrogen peroxide or 18% carbamide peroxide are Schedule 5 substances requiring a "Caution" label and may be sold direct to consumers with the stipulated warnings. Above that, Schedule 10 restricts sale, supply and use to registered dental practitioners as part of their dental practice, and these provisions are formalised in all state and territory poisons legislation.

Does a whitening laser need a licence in Victoria?

For a Class 4 laser, yes. The ADA states that registered dental practitioners with appropriate training may undertake procedures using Class 4 lasers, but that Victorian legislation — along with Western Australian, Queensland and Tasmanian — requires practitioners in those states to first obtain a licence from the appropriate state regulatory authority. The relevant safety standard is AS/NZS 4173:2018.

Is there a specialty for veneers?

No. Veneers are a procedure rather than one of the thirteen specialties recognised by the Dental Board of Australia; prosthodontics is the specialty concerned with restoring and replacing teeth. Who may provide veneers is governed by the Board's requirement that practitioners only perform treatment for which they have been educated and trained and in which they are competent.

What should I ask before agreeing to veneers?

How much tooth structure will be removed and whether that is reversible; how many cases like yours the clinician has done; and what happens if a veneer debonds or chips in the first year. The first question is the one most often skipped.

Do two dentists with the same registration offer the same veneer work?

Not necessarily. The Board states that scope of practice depends on education, qualifications, training, experience and competence, and that even within a division one practitioner's scope may vary from another's.

Related services and further reading

Cosmetic dentistry at Core Dental

Composite veneers

Porcelain veneers

Dental crowns

Teeth whitening

Dental payment plans

Our dentists and registered specialists

Core Dental Southbank

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 dental veneers made from at Core Dental?

Veneers at Core Dental are made from either composite resin, a white filling material, or porcelain, a hardened translucent ceramic. They are thin custom shells bonded to the front surface of your natural teeth.

Which dental concerns can veneers address?

Veneers can address aged veneers that need replacement, spaces between teeth, broken, crooked or badly chipped or worn teeth, and permanently stained or discoloured teeth. Your Core Dental dentist assesses whether they suit you.

How long does it take to have porcelain veneers at Core Dental?

Porcelain veneers involve a first visit to prepare the tooth and fit a temporary veneer, then about two weeks later your dentist fits and permanently attaches the porcelain veneer. Timing varies for each person.

Can composite veneers be completed in one appointment?

Yes. Core Dental can often complete composite veneers in a single appointment because the dentist applies white filling material in layers directly to the tooth, with very little natural tooth removed.

Why do composite veneers need more maintenance than porcelain?

Composite is slightly porous and not as strong as porcelain, so it can lose its lustre, need polishing, or discolour and need replacing sooner. Porcelain is stronger and generally needs less ongoing maintenance.

Which Core Dental clinics offer veneers?

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

How can I pay for veneers at Core Dental?

Core Dental offers interest-free Payright plans of up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months, subject to eligibility and approval, and TLC loans from $2,001 to $50,000. Terms were published as at September 2026, so confirm them.

How do I care for veneers after treatment?

Brush with fluoride toothpaste twice a day, floss and see a dental hygienist for a scale and clean. The veneer material cannot decay but the teeth underneath can, so Core Dental advises follow-up checks.