Porcelain Veneers in Melbourne | Core Dental

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

Details:

Porcelain veneers are thin, custom-made shells of hardened, translucent ceramic that are bonded to the front surfaces of your teeth to change their shape, length, colour and proportions. At Core Dental we provide porcelain veneers through our general dentists at our Melbourne clinics, and our ceramists make each veneer to suit you. 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 porcelain veneers?

Porcelain veneers are custom hand-crafted cosmetic restorations. They are designed to change the look of a tooth, including its shape, length, texture, colour, brightness and proportions, so that your smile looks more balanced. Porcelain can be made with an opacity and lustre that closely resemble an untreated tooth, which is why it is often chosen when a natural-looking finish matters to you.

Veneers are commonly considered for:

Spaces between teeth

Broken, crooked, chipped or worn teeth

Permanently stained or discoloured teeth

Aged veneers that need replacement

How do porcelain veneers differ from composite veneers?

Porcelain (ceramic) veneers are fabricated facings, usually made by a technician in a dental laboratory and fitted by your dentist. They suit moderate to major changes in tooth shape and texture. Porcelain is a stronger material than composite resin, it does not change colour or lose its shine in the way composite can, and it generally needs less ongoing maintenance.

Composite resin veneers are applied directly to the tooth in a single visit and suit small to moderate changes, such as closing gaps or repairing small fractures. They are usually less costly at first, but composite is slightly porous, can lose its lustre and need polishing, and can discolour and need replacing over time. Your choice may depend on the treatment process you prefer, your short-term budget and the outcome you want. You can read more on our composite veneers page and our composite and porcelain veneers overview .

How does the porcelain veneer procedure work?

Porcelain veneers take at least two main visits.

Consultation and planning. Your dentist checks that you have enough healthy natural tooth, assesses your gums and bite and may request imaging. We give you a written treatment plan and quote.

Preparation appointment. A thin layer of enamel is usually removed from the front of the tooth to make room for the porcelain. Enamel cannot be replaced naturally.

Temporary veneers. Our ceramists can take up to two weeks to make your veneers. So that you can smile and chew in the meantime, your dentist places plastic temporary veneers. They let you assess the length, shape and size of the proposed veneers. Temporary veneers do not have the strength or texture of porcelain and can chip or stain, so please call us as soon as possible if you have a problem with them.

Try-in and cementation. On the day your veneers are inserted, your dentist temporarily cements them so you can review the shape, colour and size and ask for changes. Please raise any concerns at this point. Once you consent, your dentist permanently bonds the porcelain in place. After cementation, the veneers can no longer be altered, and any changes requested after you have consented to cementation attract a fee.

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

Veneers need enough healthy natural tooth to bond to. Untreated decay or gum disease usually needs attention first, and some concerns suit other treatments better, such as whitening, crowns, composite bonding or orthodontics. If a veneer is not likely to bond well because there is insufficient enamel, a crown may be more suitable. Habits such as grinding or clenching can damage veneers, so your dentist will ask about them. Please tell us about any allergies, medical conditions and medications before treatment, because in uncommon cases people react to local anaesthetic or dental materials.

What are the risks and limitations of porcelain veneers?

All dental treatment carries risks, and your dentist will explain the material risks before you decide.

Sensitivity: most sensitivity settles within a few days or weeks of cementation, although some people have ongoing sensitivity to temperature or pressure.

Nerve complications: the nerve of a prepared tooth may respond poorly, during or after treatment, and may need root canal treatment. This is most common in teeth with fractures, large fillings or a history of trauma, and rarely occurs spontaneously.

Enamel removal: preparing a tooth removes a thin layer of enamel that cannot be replaced.

Chipping or fracture: porcelain is strong, but hard forces can chip or fracture it. A custom-fitted night guard is usually recommended to protect veneers from clenching and grinding while you sleep.

Veneers do not prevent decay in the teeth underneath.

Replacement: veneers may need repair or replacement over time, and replacement attracts a fee.

Results, recovery and longevity vary for each individual.

How do you care for porcelain veneers?

Veneers can last many years, and how long they last depends on how well they are looked after. We recommend you:

Brush with fluoride toothpaste twice a day and clean between your teeth

See your dentist for a check-up and clean every six months, or more often if recommended

Wear your night guard every night if your dentist has advised one

Avoid opening packets or bottles with your teeth and avoid chewing fingernails, ice and hard lollies

The porcelain 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 edge of the veneer. Over time, if your gums recede, the edge of a veneer may become visible and your dentist may suggest replacing it. If you do not follow your dentist's care advice, your veneers may fail early and repair or replacement may

carry a fee.

How much do porcelain 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, and several costs are involved, from X-rays to preparing and bonding the veneers and the material itself. We do not publish a veneer price here. We give you a written treatment plan and quote before treatment begins.

We offer interest-free payment plans through Payright, subject to approval: 0% interest, fortnightly instalments, 3 to 30 months and up to $20,000. Payright charges an establishment fee of $5.00 to $74.90 depending on the plan selected, a processing fee of $2.95 and a plan management fee of $3.95 per month, and these are in addition to your instalments. Applicants need to be 18 or over, an Australian permanent resident with identification and a verifiable email address and mobile number. TLC personal loans of $2,001 to $50,000 over up to 84 months are also available, with the rate set by credit assessment. Terms were published as at September 2026, so please confirm them before you proceed.

Where can you have porcelain 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 porcelain veneers at Core Dental?

Porcelain veneers can be provided by general dentists and by Specialist Prosthodontists. A prosthodontist has a formal post-graduate qualification in dental restorations and the bite (occlusion). A general dentist normally has substantial additional training in cosmetic dentistry as well as a general dental degree. At Core Dental your veneer treatment will usually be provided by one of our general dentists. If you would prefer to be referred to a Specialist Prosthodontist, please tell us before treatment so that we can arrange it. You can see our practitioners on our dentists and registered specialists page , and you can check registration on the AHPRA register at ahpra.gov.au.

How are composite and porcelain veneers actually placed?

The placement method is the real difference between them, and it explains most of the other differences.

Composite veneers

Composite is applied directly to the tooth and shaped by the dentist in the chair, which is the same method used to place a composite filling. The material is tooth-coloured and moderately durable.

Two advantages follow. Composite veneers require only one visit to the dentist, and composite is a cheaper option than porcelain in the shorter term.

The disadvantage is durability. Composite veneers are not as strong as porcelain, and because the material is slightly porous they must be maintained more regularly and are rarely permanent.

Porcelain veneers

Porcelain veneers are manufactured either chairside or in a laboratory after your initial consultation, then placed by your dentist at a second visit. Because the shell is made outside the mouth and then bonded on, it can be made more precisely and from a stronger, denser material.

Porcelain is durable and resistant to staining, which is the main reason it is chosen for front teeth that need to hold their appearance over years rather than months.

When would a porcelain veneer need replacing?

Not usually because the porcelain itself has changed.

Porcelain does not discolour the way natural teeth and composite do, so veneers tend to hold their appearance over time. The usual reason for replacement is what happens around them: as gums recede over the years, the margins of the veneers become visible at the gum edge, sometimes with staining accumulated along that line. At that point replacement is a cosmetic decision rather than a clinical necessity.

Porcelain veneers cost more than composite veneers, and the trade-off is between a lower initial cost with more frequent maintenance, and a higher initial cost with a longer interval before anything needs doing. Your dentist can set out both as quotes so you can compare them properly.

How do you look after veneers day to day?

The same way you look after teeth, with one addition.

Keeping up a good dental hygiene routine, including brushing and flossing, combined with a scale and clean with your dental hygienist, is very important. Veneers are bonded to tooth structure, and it is the tooth and the gum margin that need protecting, not the porcelain.

The addition is grinding. If you grind or clench, a night guard protects the veneer edges from the forces that chip them, and your dentist will raise this if your tooth wear suggests it is relevant to you.

How do the payment plan fees work?

Plans are available through third-party providers, with a low establishment fee and a straightforward application process.

Two details are worth knowing in advance. The fees are charged to the credit or debit card you nominate when the plan is set up. And any online payment calculator is indicative only: the figures it produces may not be the payment plan fees that apply at the time of your treatment and plan setup, so confirm the current terms with us and with the provider before you commit.

Current providers, amounts and terms are on our dental payment plans page.

Where should you start if you are not sure what you want?

With a conversation rather than a treatment.

If you are interested in improving the appearance of your smile but do not know where to start, book a consultation with one of our cosmetic dentists. The appointment is for discussing the options available to you based on your expectations and your budget, and for establishing what is realistic for your own teeth.

Veneers are thin shells bonded to the surface of teeth, and they may be used to modify the position, shape or shade of teeth as well as the overall appearance of a smile. Porcelain veneers and crowns are both options that may help restore the structure and appearance of teeth, and which of them suits you depends on how much tooth structure remains. We use digital imaging and scanning to support assessment, planning and the conversation about options, so you can see what is being proposed before agreeing to it.

Frequently asked questions

How long do porcelain veneers last?

Porcelain veneers can last many years, but lifespan varies. It depends on your oral hygiene, regular check-ups, whether you clench or grind, and avoiding hard forces. Veneers can chip or fracture, and your dentist will advise on follow-up.

Do porcelain veneers stain?

Porcelain does not change colour or lose its shine in the way composite resin can. The natural teeth around a veneer can still stain, and staining can collect at the edge of a veneer if gums recede.

How do I choose between composite and porcelain veneers?

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

Can I change my veneers after they are cemented?

No. Once your veneers are permanently cemented, they cannot be altered. You review them with your dentist at the try-in stage before you consent, and changes requested after consent attract a fee.

Will I need a night guard?

Your dentist will usually recommend a custom-fitted night guard if you clench or grind your teeth, to protect your veneers while you sleep. Please wear it every night as advised.

Why do composite veneers only take one visit?

Because the composite is applied directly to the tooth and shaped in the chair, the same way a composite filling is placed. Porcelain veneers are made outside the mouth, chairside or in a laboratory, and bonded at a second visit.

Why would a porcelain veneer need replacing if the porcelain does not stain?

Usually because of gum recession. As gums recede over the years, the margins of the veneers can become visible at the gum edge, sometimes with staining along that line. Replacement at that point is a cosmetic decision rather than a clinical necessity.

Which works out cheaper over time, composite or porcelain?

It depends on the interval you are comparing. Composite costs less initially but is slightly porous, needs more regular maintenance and is rarely permanent. Porcelain costs more up front and generally goes longer before anything needs doing. Ask for both as written quotes.

Is an online payment calculator reliable?

Treat it as indicative. The figures may not match the payment plan fees that apply when your treatment and plan are actually set up, and the fees are charged to the card you nominate. Confirm current terms with us and with the provider.

Related services and further reading

Composite and porcelain veneers

Composite veneers

Cosmetic dentistry at Core Dental

Dental crowns

Teeth whitening

Why would I need dental veneers?

How long do porcelain veneers last?

The differences between porcelain veneers and composite

Dental payment plans

Understanding your treatment

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 porcelain veneers made from at Core Dental?

Porcelain veneers at Core Dental are thin custom shells made from hardened, translucent ceramic. Our ceramists make them, and your dentist bonds them to the front surfaces of your teeth to change their shape, length and colour.

How many visits do porcelain veneers take at Core Dental?

Porcelain veneers at Core Dental take at least two main visits. Your dentist prepares the teeth and places temporary veneers, then your ceramists take up to two weeks to make the porcelain veneers before they are fitted.

Do temporary veneers get fitted while waiting at Core Dental?

Yes. While our ceramists make your porcelain veneers, your Core Dental dentist places plastic temporary veneers so you can smile and chew. They are not as strong as porcelain and can chip or stain, so call us if there is a problem.

Can porcelain veneers be altered after cementation at Core Dental?

No. At Core Dental your dentist first cements the veneers temporarily so you can review shape, colour and size. After you consent to permanent cementation they cannot be altered, and later changes attract a fee.

What are the risks of porcelain veneers?

Risks of porcelain veneers include tooth sensitivity, nerve problems that may need root canal treatment, permanent removal of a thin layer of enamel, and chipping or fracture. Core Dental dentists explain material risks before you decide.

Who can provide porcelain veneers at Core Dental?

At Core Dental, porcelain veneers are usually provided by our general dentists. If you prefer a Specialist Prosthodontist, who has a post-graduate qualification in restorations and the bite, tell us before treatment so we can arrange a referral.

How can I pay for porcelain veneers at Core Dental?

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

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book on 13 13 16.