In-House Ceramists and Your Crown or Veneer | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/how-our-in-house-laboratory-benefits-your-dental-care/

Details:

When a dentist prepares a tooth for a crown or veneer, the restoration is made by a ceramist or dental technician from a scan or impression. At Core Dental our team includes ceramists and dental technicians, so your dentist can talk directly with the person making your restoration. In general, working closely together can reduce back-and-forth about shade, shape and fit, and may mean fewer appointments. What suits you depends on your examination, your teeth and the treatment your dentist recommends.

Where do crowns and veneers actually come from?

When a dentist prepares a tooth for a crown or veneer, they need to pass precise information to a ceramist, the skilled technician who makes the restoration. Traditionally this meant physical impressions: the tray of soft material you bite into, which sets into a mould. The dentist would send the mould along with a shade guide selection, which is their selection to match the colour of your surrounding teeth, and a prescription sheet describing what they want.

Today many practices use digital scans instead of, or as well as, impressions. Either way, the dentist sends the information to a laboratory, and the laboratory returns the finished restoration for fitting.

At many practices, that laboratory is separate from the clinic. It may be local or interstate, and in some cases overseas. Using an external laboratory is a legitimate and common arrangement. It does, however, mean the restoration spends time in transit, and any questions between the dentist and the ceramist need to be handled by email or phone.

How does the usual process work when a dentist uses an external laboratory?

In a typical arrangement, your dentist prepares the tooth, takes an impression or scan, fits a temporary restoration and sends the details to the laboratory. The restoration is then made and returned, and you come back for a second appointment to have it fitted.

The waiting period between appointments depends on the laboratory, the type of restoration and how complex it is. It is often described as a week or two, and sometimes longer. If the shade or fit is not quite right when the restoration returns, it may need to be adjusted or remade, which can mean another appointment and more waiting time. This does not happen with every restoration, but it is one of the practical reasons patients ask how their restoration will be made.

What can in-house ceramists and technicians change for you?

Our team includes ceramists and dental technicians who work alongside our dentists. When a dentist sends a digital scan to our team, the ceramist can begin working without courier delays or transit time. How quickly your restoration is ready still depends on the type of restoration, how complex it is and the treatment plan your dentist sets, so please ask when you book.

For some single-tooth crowns, we may also be able to offer same-day crowns with CEREC technology at selected clinics. In those cases the restoration can be designed and milled while you are at the practice. Same-day crowns are not suitable for every tooth or every situation, and your dentist will tell you whether they are an option for you. You can read more about same-day crowns with CEREC .

Why does direct communication with the ceramist matter?

Speed is only part of the story. Communication is often just as important.

When a ceramist works at a distant laboratory, the information available is generally what is written on the prescription sheet, plus the impression or digital file that was sent. If the ceramist has a question about shade, shape or the way a tooth contacts its neighbours, an email or phone call is needed and a reply has to be waited for. Often a laboratory will make a sensible judgement call and the dentist will review the result on return.

When the ceramist and dentist work in the same group, they can talk directly. Where it is practical, the ceramist may be able to see your teeth in person, look at the surrounding teeth in natural light rather than only in a photograph, and ask your dentist about details such as whether you would like the restoration slightly longer, slightly lighter or matched to a specific neighbouring tooth that photographed poorly. Patients sometimes do not realise this level of involvement is possible. For more complex cosmetic cases, your dentist may arrange for you, your dentist and the ceramist to look at the shade together. Availability depends on the clinic and the treatment, so please ask your clinic.

Do you want a restoration that reflects the natural character of the teeth beside it, including subtle translucency at the edge? Or do you prefer a uniform, brighter appearance? These are personal decisions, and it helps to talk them through with your dentist before treatment starts.

Why does shade matching in natural light matter?

Shade matching is one of the more technically demanding parts of cosmetic dentistry. Colour in teeth is not uniform. Natural teeth vary in value, chroma and hue across the surface. There are internal effects from the dentine beneath the enamel, the edge is often more translucent than the body, and individual teeth can have subtle orange or grey characteristics depending on their history.

Standard shade guides capture some of this, but they are approximations. Matching a shade carefully generally requires seeing the actual teeth, ideally under more than one light source, such as the overhead surgery light, daylight and the kind of warm indoor light your restoration will usually be seen under. Seeing the teeth in person can reduce the chance of a restoration looking too bright, too grey or simply not quite right in a way that is hard to put into words. It cannot remove that chance completely, and a restoration can still need adjustment.

How does quality control work when ceramists and dentists work together?

When restorations are made by an outside laboratory, a dentist can still check each one and send it back if it does not meet their standards. Working in the same group means feedback can be quick and direct. If a restoration is not quite right, the dentist can speak with the ceramist the same day, and the restoration can be adjusted or remade where needed.

Over time, ceramists who regularly work with the same dentists come to understand each dentist's preferences. That kind of ongoing working relationship is one of the reasons we value having technicians as part of our team. Our dentists and ceramists are also supported by the review and case analysis processes we use in treatment planning, as described on our dentist and specialist pages.

What does this mean for you as a patient?

In practical terms, an in-house approach to making restorations can mean:

fewer back-and-forth steps to get a crown or veneer right

the possibility of a shorter wait between appointments when your treatment needs to be completed before an event such as a holiday or wedding, though timing depends on your treatment

your dentist and ceramist being able to plan the shape, shade and fit with knowledge of your mouth, your adjacent teeth and your preferences

None of this replaces a thorough examination. Whether a crown, veneer or bridge is right for you depends on the condition of your tooth, your bite and your goals.

What should you ask before having a crown or veneer?

A useful first step is to explain your concern, symptoms and treatment goals when you book. Bring any relevant medical information and a list of your current medicines. Your dentist can then assess your teeth, gums and bite, request imaging when it is clinically appropriate and explain which options may suit you.

Questions you might ask include:

What is the recommended approach intended to achieve?

Are there reasonable alternatives?

Who will make my restoration, and when will it be ready?

Can I take part in choosing the shade?

What does aftercare involve, and what risks or limitations apply?

What will it cost, and can I have a written treatment plan with fees and payment options?

Treatment time, fees, recovery and maintenance all vary with the diagnosis and the complexity of care. A written treatment plan can help you compare stages, expected appointments and payment arrangements before proceeding.

If you have uncontrollable bleeding, difficulty breathing or swallowing, a serious facial injury or any other life-threatening symptom, call 000 immediately. For severe tooth pain or swelling without those signs, contact your dental practice promptly.

Frequently asked questions

What is a ceramist?

A ceramist is a dental technician who specialises in making tooth-coloured restorations such as crowns, veneers and bridges, usually from porcelain or other ceramic materials. Dentists give the ceramist the information needed to match the shape, shade and fit of your natural teeth.

Does an in-house laboratory mean my crown will be ready faster?

It can reduce transit time, but the timing still depends on the type of restoration, its complexity and your treatment plan. Some restorations need more than one appointment. Your dentist will explain the likely timeframe before treatment begins.

Can I have a crown made in one visit?

In some cases, yes. At selected Core Dental clinics, same-day crowns are made with CEREC technology while you are at the practice. They are not suitable for every tooth, so your dentist will assess whether this option fits your situation.

Can I be involved in choosing the shade of my veneer or crown?

Often you can discuss the shade, shape and length with your dentist before and during treatment. For more complex cosmetic work, your dentist may arrange for the ceramist to be involved. Ask your clinic what is available for your treatment.

Does using an outside laboratory mean a poorer result?

No. Many practices work with external laboratories, and results depend on the dentist, the technician and your individual situation. We simply find that direct communication between our dentists and ceramists helps with planning and adjustments.

Related services and further reading

Dental crowns

Composite and porcelain veneers

Dental bridges

Same-day crowns with CEREC

What is a dental crown?

What is the difference between porcelain and composite veneers?

Dentists and registered specialists

Understanding your treatment

How can we help?

If you are thinking about a crown, veneer or bridge, our team can explain the options, quote before treatment starts and talk through interest-free payment plans. Call 13 13 16 or book online at any of our nine Core Dental practices. You can also explore our cosmetic dentistry services or general dentistry .

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.

We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans.

Call 13 13 16 or book online.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16

Booking	Online through coredental.com.au, or call 13 13 16
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.

Who makes crowns and veneers for Core Dental patients?

Our team includes ceramists and dental technicians who work with our dentists to make restorations such as crowns, veneers and bridges. Core Dental dentists send them a digital scan or impression, and your dentist fits the finished restoration.

Why might working with an in-house ceramist reduce delays?

When a ceramist and dentist work in the same group, questions about shade or fit can be answered directly instead of through emails, and a scan can be received without courier transit time. Actual timing at Core Dental still depends on your treatment.

Are same-day crowns offered at Core Dental?

Same-day crowns made with CEREC technology are offered at our Epping, South Melbourne and Caroline Springs clinics. Not every tooth is suitable, so our dentists assess your situation first.

What should I tell Core Dental before a crown or veneer?

Please tell our team about your concern, medical history, current medicines, allergies and your treatment goals, such as shade and shape preferences. Our dentists use this to assess your teeth and explain which options may suit you.

Will Core Dental give me a written quote before a crown or veneer?

Yes. At Core Dental we quote before treatment starts, so you can see the stages, expected appointments and fees. Interest-free payment plans are available, and fees depend on your diagnosis and the complexity of care.

How do I book a crown or veneer consultation at Core Dental?

Call Core Dental on 13 13 16 or book online through coredental.com.au. We have nine clinics across Melbourne and are open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings, with Sunday closed.

Can a shade be adjusted after my restoration is made at Core Dental?

Sometimes, yes. If the shade or fit of a restoration is not right, our dentist can discuss adjustments or remaking it with the ceramist. Whether this is needed depends on the restoration and your teeth.

What qualifications do Core Dental ceramists and technicians hold?

Our live team page lists ceramists and dental technicians with Diploma of Dental Technology qualifications, including a Master Ceramist with a Diploma of Dental Technology from RMIT. See our team page for details of current staff.