

## FAQ's About Veneers

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### **What is a Veneer?**

*A veneer is an extremely natural looking dental restoration that covers the outside or visible surface of teeth. It is cemented into place and cannot be taken off.*

### **What material is in a Veneer?**

*Veneers are made of very thin tooth-colored porcelain.*

### **What are the benefits of having a Veneer?**

*Veneers restore teeth to their ideal size, shape and color.*

### **What are the risks of having a Veneer?**

*In having a veneer, some inherent risks exist both to the tooth and to the veneer itself.*

*The risks to the tooth are:*

- *Preparation for an veneer permanently alters the tooth underneath the veneer*
- *If the cement seal at the edge of the veneer is lost, decay may form at the juncture of the veneer and tooth*
- *Preparing for and placing a veneer can irritate the tooth and cause "post-operative" sensitivity which may last for up to 3 months*
- *Teeth which have had veneers may need root canal treatment less than 1% of the time during the lifetime of the tooth*

*The risks to the veneer are:*

- *Porcelain may chip over time*
- *If the tooth needs a root canal after the veneer is permanently cemented, the procedure may fracture the veneer and the veneer may need to be replaced*

### **What are the alternatives to Veneers?**

*Alternatives to placing a veneer are to either leave the tooth as is or to place a composite restoration. Composite restorations remove decay and may restore teeth to their original form but are limited because they:*

- *Do not improve the aesthetics of teeth as well a veneer*

### **How can an existing bite affect a Veneer?**

*Excessive bite forces may lead to the veneer chipping or breaking*

### **Are there any post treatment limitations once I have a Veneer?**

- *Porcelain on a veneer may have a good color match with adjacent natural teeth when the veneer is placed but less of a match as your natural teeth age*
- *A veneer may chip or break if used for abnormal activities (e.g. biting fishing line, sewing thread, biting finger nails, opening bottles)*