

Veneers, Facts vs. Fiction



How can I tell the difference between needing my teeth whitened versus getting veneers?

Most individuals are able to simply have their teeth whitened to brighten their smiles. Porcelain veneers are custom-crafted shells of ceramic material applied over the front surface of teeth. The majority of veneer cases are applied to patients with uneven alignment or sizing, worn enamel, small gaps or minor chips and cracks. Porcelain veneers can be matched to your existing tooth color, or can be whiter and brighter if a full-mouth case is being completed.

Will you have to file down my teeth for veneers?

Depending on the specific patient and type of porcelain veneers used, there have been great advances in the application process. Certain porcelain veneers no longer require grinding, cutting or filing of the teeth in most cases.

How long does the process take?

The process of completing a porcelain veneer case is always dependent upon each specific patient. Porcelain veneers can be created and applied in just a few visits in most cases.

Is it painful? Do you have to inject novacaine?

Most patients report the process is painless.

In some instances, local anesthetic may be used during the application process. In the event that anesthesia is needed, sedation is a wonderful option that can allow you to sleep through your procedure. Some instances, local anesthetic may be used during the application process.

How does it work? Do you get all your teeth done (or just do uppers in the front for example)?

Patients go through a process of having impressions taken of their natural teeth. Once the impressions have been cast, they are sent to one of the best labs in the country, where custom veneers will be created and designed to fit your teeth. Some patients may only need one or a few veneers, yet others will find a full-mouth case is what completes their smile.

How long do the veneers last?

Having porcelain veneers can be quite costly, therefore, it is understandable that a patient opting for veneers would want to know how long they will last. Unfortunately, there is no definitive answer to this question. The best answer is this: it all depends on how well you take care of them. Under certain conditions, they can last a lifetime.

Do you have any examples of people who are happy with the procedure?

You can visit our website at www.DurhamDental.net, and check out the Smile Gallery to see some before and after photos of patients who have opted for porcelain veneers.