

Brisbane Veneers

The Finest Veneers in Australia

Specialist care, Perfect Results

Your Guide to Porcelain Veneers

Whether you have been thinking about improving your smile, or you just want to know a little more about Porcelain Veneers, this resource has been designed to explain many common questions about porcelain veneers.

For more information or to see our Smile Gallery of completed cases, please go to our website at www.brisbaneveneers.com



1 What is a Porcelain Veneer ?

A veneer is a facing that is made to fit over the front of a tooth, to change its size, shape or colour. Veneers can be made from composite resin (sometimes referred to as "Bonding") or from porcelain. They are custom made for the tooth and should fit precisely to place with a dental adhesive for a lifelike, long term result.



2 Are my teeth drilled for a Porcelain Veneer ?

There has been the suggestion that porcelain veneers can be placed without touching the underlying tooth. This is possible in a small number of instances, and whenever it can be done without compromising the final result, then this is what we will do. However, in most instances, a small amount of modification is needed to the underlying tooth such that the new veneer fits seamlessly into the smile and does not look "bulky" or cause unwanted gum inflammation. If you have seen people with teeth that look too fake and too big, it may be that the veneers were placed without correct tooth modification first.





The porcelain veneers on these two central incisors blend perfectly with the adjacent natural teeth. This is a beautiful outcome because the teeth were lightly modified before the veneers were placed.



These teeth all received porcelain veneers without any modification first. The result is unnatural as the teeth appear too bulky and the overall smile looks somewhat fake.

3 Porcelain Veneers or Porcelain Crowns ?

Porcelain can be used in the form of a full crown or a veneer. Where possible, veneers are preferred for their longevity and also because they are much more conservative to the underlying tooth. Veneers normally require a thin layer of enamel to be reduced from the front of a tooth, whereas crowns require this amount to be removed all the way around the tooth (front, back and sides). In cases where many teeth need to be treated, the presence of existing fillings in some of those teeth may mean that veneers are not possible on those teeth, and crowns are indicated instead. However, even in those situations, we will always place crowns only on those teeth which require them, and place veneers on the remaining teeth, to ensure only the minimum amount of enamel is ever removed and that the most conservative treatment is always performed. Minimising the drilling down of your teeth is very important for their ongoing health.



These porcelain crowns were not made well. They had been done to improve this patient's smile, however the end result was not very aesthetics.

When the crowns were removed, the extent of the past drilling was clear. These teeth had been unnecessarily reduced to these small shapes and one of the teeth even needed root canal treatment. Porcelain veneers do not require this level of damage to natural teeth.





These teeth were short and irregular in appearance and the decision was made to improve their length and shapes with porcelain veneers.

This photograph clearly shows how conservative the reshaping of the enamel was, compared to what is mostly required for porcelain crowns.



Correct and conservative tooth modification resulted in natural looking perfect porcelain veneers.

4 Porcelain Veneers or Composite Veneers ?

When seeking to improve the appearance of teeth, the choices are either porcelain or composite resin materials.

Composite resins are hardened plastic materials which can be used very conservatively, and are very well suited to younger patients. Their limitations are mostly in their longevity as they lose their shine and will discolour over time. Composite veneers are placed in one longer appointment, and the colour options whilst good, are still limited in comparison to porcelain.

Porcelain veneers are custom made by a Ceramist in the dental laboratory, and this allows for many fine colours and nuances to be incorporated into each veneer. This finesse increases the lifelike appearance of the restored tooth often making porcelain veneers indistinguishable from adjacent natural teeth. Porcelain also brings the advantage of a

glass-like finish which is very plaque and stain resistant, and so the cosmetic result can potentially last up to 15 years or longer.



These patient's teeth were spaced and very narrow in form. As the patient was only a teenager, composite veneers were chosen for their conservatism. The post treatment photo shows the way composite veneers lose their shine over the shorter to mid-term.



This patient's teeth were heavily restored and all of the old fillings and crowns were showing discolouration and breakdown at the margins. Porcelain veneers (and one crown) were placed and the post treatment photo shows how well porcelain will retain its colour and shine over the

5 Can you treat just one tooth with a Porcelain Veneer ?

Porcelain veneers are custom made, individual restorations which are fitted to individual teeth. They can be used to restore or reshape one tooth, or placed in multiples, to create an entirely new smile.

When creating a new smile with many veneers, it is easier to obtain a perfect colour - as all the veneers will match each other. When treating a single tooth, a near perfect shade match is possible, but sometimes it is harder to achieve and more than one attempt may be needed at colour matching. These additional steps require Specialist attention and often come with a small additional cost. But outstanding results are possible when expert care is applied.



This young man had one darker tooth, that was slightly smaller and crowded out by the other teeth.



A single porcelain veneer was made and bonded to place. The veneer not only had all of the fine colour nuances of the natural teeth, it also had perfect shape, size and was made slightly thicker so as to sit forwards and eliminate the crowded look.

A single porcelain veneer can be made to perfectly match adjacent teeth.

About Us

Dr Michael Mandikos is a Registered Specialist in Prosthodontics and is recognised as a national and international expert and teacher in the field of porcelain veneers. His

expertise spans more than 25 years and he has provided veneers for celebrities, politicians and even a Hollywood movie actress.



Michael received his Bachelor of Dental Science Degree with First Class Honours, from the University of Queensland in 1992 and his Prosthodontics Training and Biomaterials degree from the State University of New York in 1998. He is a Fellow of The Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons, has published several research papers in Australian and international journals and is a Visiting Specialist Prosthodontist to the University of Queensland Dental School. Michael is a Reviewer for

three International Journals and a product evaluator for several dental companies. He regularly presents continuing education programs at Dental meetings throughout Australia, Southeast Asia and the USA.

Other commonly asked questions:

There are many questions that people commonly ask about Porcelain Veneers. To find out more about the following questions and for further information, please visit our website www.BrisbaneVeneers.com

- 6 Should I have Porcelain Veneers done overseas ?
- 7 Can Porcelain Veneers change the colour of all teeth ?
- 8 How are Porcelain Veneers made ?
- 9 What if teeth are drilled too much ?
- 10 The need for long term results
- 11 How much do Porcelain Veneers cost ?
- 12 Porcelain Veneers used in Hollywood ?