

Composite Veneers: Questions and Answers

Why do people have composite veneers?

We offer a range of cosmetic treatments to improve the appearance of your front teeth and composite veneers are an effective way to do this. They are placed directly onto the teeth and are used to mask and change the shape, colour, and position of your teeth.

How much do composite veneers cost?

Composite veneers typically cost £250 per tooth. We require a 50% deposit to secure a booking, the balance is then due on the day of your treatment.

If you prefer to spread the cost of your treatment over 6, 10 or 12 months, we also offer 0% finance subject to application.

How many teeth should I have treated?

Most people typically get 8 to 10 top teeth and 8 to 10 bottom teeth treated at the same time. Or some people get composite veneers on the top teeth only and whiten the bottom ones.

How long does treatment take?

Treatment takes about 1-3 hours, depending on the number of teeth being treated.

Are my teeth suitable for composite veneers?

If you are interested in having composite veneers, we need to assess your teeth to make sure they are suitable. The first step is to arrange a pre-clinical consultation with our patient experience manager. During this appointment we will discuss the changes you would like to make to your smile, then we will be able to organise an assessment with our principal dentist, Melbourne. To arrange your pre-clinical consultation please call us on 0191 484 1805.

Should I have porcelain veneers or composite veneers?

Porcelain veneers are a good option for restoring worn or broken teeth, and they can mask, change the shape, position, and colour of your teeth. They require some preparation of your teeth, followed by an impression which is then sent to a dental laboratory to fabricate the veneer. These typically cost from £595 per tooth depending on the porcelain used.

Composite veneers are placed directly onto teeth to mask and change the shape, colour, and position of your teeth. Composite veneers are very popular as they require little or no tooth preparation. Although not as strong as porcelain veneers they are repairable and quite durable. They typically cost £200 per tooth and this treatment takes about 1-2 hours.



What are composite veneers made from?

The composite material is made up of different sized grains of silica (glass) in a methacrylate (resin) matrix. It is bonded in layers to the teeth and polished with a variety of diamond burs and polishing discs.

Do my teeth have to be filed down?

In most cases composite veneers require no preparation of your teeth so it's completely reversible if you maintain toothbrushing and flossing.

Are there foods I can't eat?

Generally, you can eat what you like as most foods have no detrimental effects on the composites. You should be more careful with hard foods such as bones, boiled sweets, and apples, as they have a greater potential to chip the composites

Will my composites get stained?

Smoking can cause staining so if you are a smoker we advise more frequent polishing – every 3 months. Generally, food and drink does not stain the composites, however, you should maintain good oral hygiene with brushing and flossing and the composites should be polished every 3-6 months to lift any staining that does occur.

How long will my composites last?

Composite veneers tend to last for quite some time often many years if they are maintained, and they can be easily repaired. As part of the maintenance of composite veneers it is important to brush your teeth twice a day, to floss once a day, and to have a scale and polish every 3-6 months.

What happens if they chip?

Your treatment includes a 2-year guarantee to repair chips free of charge. This guarantee is subject to you maintaining your oral health by attending regular hygiene appointments (at least 6 monthly) and dental health examinations (at least annually) either at Carew Dental or at any other dental practice.

Occasionally, if you grind your teeth at night, you may need an additional night-splint, and this will incur an additional £85 charge.

Looking beyond the 2-years, we have Carew Dental memberships available that provide discounted treatments including clean and polishes and dental health examinations, so you can continue to look after your oral health and the longevity of the composite veneers.

Repairs cost between £120-200 per tooth plus the £47 appointment fee, which is usually waived for Carew Dental members.



What does the guarantee include?

- Chips will be repaired for 2 years from the date of treatment. If composites chip excessively other treatment options may be recommended.
- Margin stains are not included in the 2-year guarantee. Hygiene appointments are available at the practice if you require us to remove stains.
- Composite veneer polishes are not included.
- The guarantee is subject to you maintaining your oral health by attending regular hygiene appointments (at least 6 monthly) and dental health examinations (at least annually) either at Carew Dental or at any other dental practice.

What are the main advantages of having composite veneers?

- Can be done in one visit.
- Less expensive than porcelain veneers.
- Little or no natural tooth reduction.

What are the main disadvantages of having composite veneers?

- Can require maintenance.
- Composite material can chip (but easily repaired).
- If composites chip due to heavy bite or grinding a night splint may be required.
- Margins can sometimes stain from tobacco, food, and drinks such as tea and coffee. This varies from person to person (stains are easily polished off at your regular hygiene or scale and polish visits).
- Does not whiten with teeth whitening products.
- Not as shiny as porcelain veneers and may require polishing to maintain shine.
- Hard and sticky food should be avoided (biting into apples, boiled sweets etc.).
- Will not be able to bite nails, open packets, or tear sticky tape with teeth.

