

# How Dental Veneers Are Applied

By Dr. Melanie Rabeni

Dental veneers allow a dentist to completely resurface a tooth to repair chips, color and shape. These dental veneers will mimic the original tooth perfectly and provide a durable repair for many problems that might have required more aggressive methods in years past. Dental veneers are made from a thin layer of porcelain or composite material and applied to the front of a patient's teeth. This procedure can be used to adjust the color, shape, length and position of the tooth by adhering this veneer to the original tooth with a specialized dental cement.

Most dental veneers are used to enhance a person's smile by correcting for defects in their front set of teeth. By creating and applying these veneers to the original teeth, the cosmetic dentist can create a new smile for the patient by using their original teeth for support. The veneers can be applied in a regular office visit .

Before starting the dental veneer procedure, a dentist will typically give the patient a complete dental checkup. This allows them to assess the quality of the patient's teeth and determine if they can benefit from the application of dental veneers. Once the patient is deemed a good candidate, the dentist will normally take a mold of the patient's teeth to use as a model for the construction of the veneers themselves. Because these veneers are made for a specific tooth in a particular patient's mouth, they are highly customized to perfectly mimic the original tooth. This model will allow the dentist to shape the veneer as needed before it can be applied to the patient's tooth. This not only saves time during a regular office visit for the patient, it also ensures a perfect fit for the final product.

While the majority of these veneers are made from porcelain, other materials are also used depending on the location of the tooth being repaired and the preference of the dentist. The color of the finished veneer is also critical and the dentist will determine this by examining the surrounding teeth to find the perfect color match. In most cases, the veneer itself is made at a separate laboratory that specializes in creating these items and then is delivered to the dentist for application. This process can take a few weeks between the initial visit and the placement of the veneers on the patient's teeth.

Once the patient has decided to go ahead with treatment, the dentist must remove a small amount of the enamel on the tooth to provide a rough surface to attach the veneer. This rougher surface enables the dental adhesive to bond more fully to the veneer and the patient's teeth and will ensure years of trouble-free service from the veneers once they have been placed. To apply the veneer,

the cosmetic dentist uses a small amount of dental adhesive that is cured with a specialized ultraviolet light. Once this adhesive has cured, the dentist will make other minor adjustments to the size of the veneer to help it blend in with other teeth in the patient's mouth. The entire procedure may take two visits to complete but will help you to restore the perfect smile you desire.

Dr. Melanie Rabeni owns Rabeni Dental in Plymouth, MA. For the latest information on how to create a beautiful smile through cosmetic dentistry, visit [www.rabenidental.com](http://www.rabenidental.com)

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