

## What is a Veneer?

A veneer is a thin layer of porcelain made to fit over the front surface of a tooth, like a false fingernail fits over a nail.

## What does treatment for a veneer involve?

A veneer takes at least two visits: the first to prepare the tooth and to match the shade, and the second to fit it. There is usually 2-3 weeks between these visits. At the first visit, some of the shiny outer enamel surface of the tooth is removed, to make sure that the veneer can be bonded permanently in place later. The amount of enamel removed is tiny and will be the same as the thickness of the veneer to be fitted, so that the tooth stays the same size.

A local anaesthetic (injection) may be used to make sure that there is no discomfort, but often this is not necessary. Once the tooth has been prepared, the dentist will take an 'impression' (mould). This will be sent to the dental technician, along with any other information needed to make the veneer. The colour of the surrounding teeth is matched on a shade guide to make sure that the veneer will look entirely natural. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> visit the veneer is fitted, before bonding it in place, your dentist will show you the veneer on your tooth to make sure you are happy with it. Bonding a veneer in place is done with a special adhesive, which holds it firmly on the tooth.

