

What's the difference: Composite Veneers or Porcelain Veneers?

Quick Read Information Sheet v3

A quick read, one page information sheet.

We are exploring one of the most frequent questions we receive here at Bamboo.

Composite vs Porcelain – what's the difference?

Composite veneers are veneers made from resin material, a white composite filling material, the same used for composite bonding. Emax veneers are fabricated in a laboratory, carved out from a block of porcelain and hand painted to the desired shade and shape. True artistry.

How are they fitted?

Bonding anything onto the tooth surface first involves cleaning and varnishing each tooth. Composite veneers are then fitted using a gum shield, into which the smooth warm composite is 'injected'. This is totally pain free and quite relaxing. After a final polish of the composite, you are good to go.

The process is similar with porcelain veneers, but the main difference is that you will be numbed up first and then the veneers are placed on individually using a dental bonding agent. Again, this is pain free.

How long do they last?

One of the biggest differences between the two treatments is the length of time they are expected to last. Usually, composite veneers last around 5 to 8 years whereas Emax porcelain veneers last upwards of 15 years.

Composite won't feel or look quite as nice as porcelain but nevertheless definitely has its place in cosmetic dentistry. It is less expensive, does not involve tooth 'prep', and can sometimes be reversible. It's usually an easier treatment to commit to because of this.

Good oral hygiene is essential with any dental work to keep your smile looking clean fresh and healthy.

What is the maintenance & after care like?

In general, composite veneers require more maintenance than Emax veneers. With composite veneers, you need to maintain good dental hygiene and have a yearly check-up and scale and polish with a dentist, just for good measure.

You need to be careful with what you eat and drink to avoid any staining or chipping with composite veneers. Certain foods are more likely to stain your new smile such as coffee, red wine, and foods with artificial colouring. Similarly, you should not open things with your teeth, bite your nails, etc... with composite veneers as these things can chip.

Porcelain veneers are relatively straightforward to look after. Good oral hygiene is a must - flossing, using mouthwash, and brushing (in that order). Porcelain Emax veneers don't stop you from eating anything, except from hard boiled sweets, candy canes and sticks of rock.