

## **Design Your Perfect Smile with Veneers**

### **What are veneers?**

Dental veneers are porcelain covers that replace tooth enamel. They are one of the restorative and cosmetic methods of altering tooth position, shape, size or color. The veneers are made by mixing a specific shade of porcelain powder with water which is then fired to create a hard, durable surface. Layers of porcelain are built up to create the appearance of natural tooth enamel. Because veneers are only approximately 0.5mm thick they require minimal change in the original tooth. A well made veneer shows the artistry and skill of the dentist and lab technician in imitating natural enamel and tooth shape.

### **What can veneers do?**

Veneers can fix small to medium spaces between teeth and issues with tooth position, color or shape. They also can be very effective in dealing with some bite-related problems or for patients who have worn their teeth down by grinding. They are durable and resist stress caused by normal diet and wear of the teeth. The color of veneers is determined by the dentist, leaving the option of choosing either the “natural color” of the tooth or creating a new color by altering the hue, chroma and value of the porcelain. Because veneers are thin covers for teeth, they are unable to fix large issues, such as poor root position, bite relations or profile.

### **How do I care for my veneers?**

Brush and floss your veneers as you would the rest of your teeth. They will not be damaged by this normal care. If you have a history of grinding your teeth, let the dentist know so a bite guard can be made to protect your veneers. Lastly, make sure to schedule a follow up appointment with the dentist to make sure the veneers are comfortable and effective.

### **How long will my veneers last?**

Veneers can last up to twenty years. However, the tooth or teeth to which they are attached can change. Veneers do not change the likelihood of decay or cavities in the existing teeth as long as they are cared for with normal brushing and flossing. Over time the veneers might come off or chip, either of which can be rebonded or replaced.

### **Will insurance cover the cost of my veneers?**

Some companies will cover up to 50% of the cost, depending on the plan that your employer has enrolled in.

**To find out more, consult Dr. Dautel or your hygienist at your next appointment.**