

Bonding

Bonding is a cosmetic procedure that can improve the appearance of teeth that are chipped, broken, cracked, stained, or have spaces between them. With bonding, tooth-colored materials are attached, or bonded, to a tooth surface. The process can improve unsightly stains from coffee, tea, tobacco or certain childhood medications; front-tooth spaces; and accident-induced cracks or chips. Bonding is also used to protect exposed tooth roots that result from gum recession and to fill small cavities. Bonding usually lasts from three to five years.



After

A quick and comfortable procedure

The bonding process involves preparing the tooth surface with an etching solution that allows the bonding material (composite resins) to adhere. Composite resins are plastic materials made of glass-like substances and resin. Various color resins are carefully blended to match the existing tooth and look completely natural. The resin is applied, contoured into the proper shape and hardened using a special light or chemical process. It is then smoothed and polished to appear natural. Bonding may not require the use of anesthesia or drilling and can usually be completed in one visit.

Enamel shaping

Enamel shaping is a process of shaping, or contouring natural teeth to improve their overall appearance. When teeth are slightly crowded or uneven, or when eye teeth appear too long, enamel shaping may be used to correct the flaw.



After

Refining your smile

Enamel shaping involves modifying teeth by removing or contouring enamel to create harmony and balance in the mouth. The process, which is often combined with bonding, is usually quick and comfortable. No anesthesia is necessary when shaping the enamel, and the results can be seen immediately. Enamel shaping should be approached with caution, however, because enamel cannot be replaced.

Keep in mind that this more conservative process cannot solve all problems. Crowded teeth may need braces. If so, your dentist may provide treatment or refer you to a specialist in orthodontics.

Even subtle changes in your smile can make a dramatic difference in the way you look and feel about yourself. Discuss with your dentist not only the options most suitable for you, but also what your expectations are and the dental fees involved.

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