

Ask your dentist about



Improving your Smile

Veneers

Tooth Whitening

Bonding

Enamel Shaping

ADA

A smile can be the most eye-catching feature of a face. With dentistry's many advances, you no longer have to settle for stained, chipped or misshapen teeth. You now have choices that can help you **smile with confidence**. Talk with your dentist about the options for improving your smile.

Veneers

Veneers are thin custom-made shells that are designed to cover the front side of teeth. Made of tooth-colored materials, veneers are used to treat spaces between teeth and teeth that are permanently stained, poorly shaped or slightly crooked. They may also cover teeth that are chipped or worn.



A custom-made solution

Veneers are made from composite resins, acrylic material, or porcelain. Placing veneers is often an irreversible process because a small amount of enamel is usually removed to accommodate the thickness of the shell. Anesthetic may be required depending upon the way the tooth is being prepared. The procedure requires just a few appointments.

Like any restoration, it is possible, over time, for the veneer to come off or for decay to develop. In that case, a new veneer may be required.

Tooth whitening

Tooth whitening — also called bleaching — is a procedure that brightens teeth that are discolored, stained, or have been darkened because of injury. It can be performed on living teeth or teeth that have had root canal treatment.



Two ways to brighten your smile

Bleaching may be done completely in the dental office (known as chairside bleaching) or the dentist may dispense a system for you to use at home (home-use bleaching).

Chairside bleaching takes from 30 minutes to one hour per visit. A chemical solution, the oxidizing agent, is applied to the teeth. A special light may be used at intervals to help activate the bleaching agent. To complete the process, two or more sessions one week apart may be required. It is not uncommon for the teeth to become slightly sensitive following bleaching treatments.

With home-use bleaching, your dentist fabricates a custom-fitted mouthguard that holds a bleaching gel. The mouthguard is worn daily or at night for about two weeks. The amount of time the night-guard is worn and the treatment duration may vary according to your needs and your dentist's recommendations. Although the effects of bleaching may last for several years, teeth can become stained again by beverages and foods such as coffee, tea, and berries. Consequently, periodic touch-up treatments may be needed.