

Level Two

Crowns, Veneers and Bonding

Level Two begins the process of actually changing your teeth. Through the process of adding material to the teeth, the color and shape can be changed. For worn and broken teeth, we can add form to replace part of the tooth that was worn away. The best material for this is porcelain. A secondary choice is bonded plastic, but it doesn't hold up as well. The amount that we add is dependant on how your bite functions. Often times, tooth wear and destruction are the result of a misaligned bite. Without realigning the bite, not all the form can be added back to the teeth.

Bonding—A composite resin that is molded onto the teeth to change their color and to reshape them. One of the downsides of bonding is that the resin material can stain and chip over time.

Porcelain veneers— These shell-like facings can be bonded onto stained teeth. They are used to reshape and/or lengthen teeth, as well change their color.

Crown— Like a thimble on a finger, these porcelain restorations sleeve over the entire tooth. They are permanently cemented to the tooth. Unfortunately, they require more tooth removal than veneers or bonding.

Here are the answers to come commonly asked questions

I had crowns put on and then my gums receded. The crowns don't look good anymore because my gums show. Why did this happen?

Your gums have receded because of bone loss around your teeth. This bone loss is usually a result of your bite not working properly. Level Three cosmetic dentistry addresses the bite, and stops the bone loss.

Between bonding, veneers or crowns, which looks the most natural?

The newest porcelains look very natural. Both crowns and veneers will always look more natural than composite bonding.

Are there any new restorative techniques like these on the horizon?

The chemistry of porcelain is always advancing. The newest porcelains are extremely hard with very good esthetics.

How much tooth do you have to take away for the crowns?

Crowns replace the existing tooth structure, so approximately 1.5mm is taken away from all surfaces of the tooth to make room for the crown. Veneers require much less tooth removal. It is usually on the order of 5mm.

If all my teeth are stained etc. would I have to bond, veneer or crown every tooth?

A smile analysis is done to determine which teeth would need restoration to optimally enhance your appearance. We will present different options to you after the analysis.

Will I ever need to bleach them?

Dental restorations are not bleachable. You may however be advised to bleach your natural teeth before covering them.

How long does this process take?

The process can take about a month to six weeks.

I had crowns in the past and they have broken. Why?

A broken crown is the result of misdirected forces on the porcelain. Porcelain is glass, and just like anything glass, if you hit it wrong it breaks. Force is the pressure your jaws and muscles exert on your teeth and if there is misalignment, this can cause tooth fractures, cracks and breakage.

Can this happen again after restoration?

There is always a chance of the porcelain breaking in Level Two rejuvenation. Read the information on Level Three if you want to understand how to avoid future fractures.

Who is the perfect candidate for Level Two?

The perfect candidate is someone who wants their teeth to look better and hasn't had significant breakdown of their teeth over time. If you have a great deal of missing form, Level Three would be a better option.

To your beautiful smile,

Dr. Mark