

## COMPOSITE BONDING

Composite artistry, also known as composite bonding, is an advanced dentistry technique that allows you to achieve the smile you have always wanted without damaging your teeth.

Dental composite is a versatile glass like material that can be bonded directly to the tooth to replace a broken edge, to lighten teeth, to improve tooth proportions and form, or to redesign your entire smile.

Bonding is a popular cosmetic dental treatment used to improve the colour, shape and overall appearance of teeth. Using colour matched filling materials, our expert dentists are able to change the shape and contour of a person's teeth to create a beautiful smile.

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### COULD YOU BENEFIT FROM BONDING?

Here are a few dental issues that can be resolved using composite bonding

#### Cracked teeth

Using composite artistry, we can help prevent existing cracks from extending. This unique material can also help minimise the appearance of cracks, especially miniscule cracks that may be extensive and cause your smile to become discoloured.

#### Chipped teeth

Composite tooth bonding is an excellent treatment choice for repairing chipped teeth. Using our specially formulated bonding material our skilled dentists can restore the tooth, prevent further damage and create an even, blemish free surface. These results can often be obtained in a single visit - restoring your confidence with a flawless smile.

#### Close gaps in teeth

Using our composite resin, we can build outwards using the teeth on either side of the gap to effectively close the space. However, if the gap is very wide or if you have multiple gaps in your smile, then an alternative treatment such as Invisalign or dental veneers may be recommended instead.

#### Protect exposed tooth roots

This specially formulated resin can even be used in the treatment of exposed tooth roots. Our experts can mould the resin into place to conceal exposed roots and prevent the painful sensitivity that it causes.



## HOW DOES COMPOSITE BONDING WORK?

Your dentist will colour match the bonding resin to the natural shade of your teeth. However 90% of clients will always do some simple home tooth whitening to brighten the natural shade of the teeth before bonding is applied. There needs to be 2-3 clear weeks between when the patient stops whitening and the dentist places the bonding on the teeth as the whitening process interferes with the bonding process unless it is left to settle down. They then carefully apply the resin to the teeth causing no structural harm or damage. The resin is then shaped and used to smooth surfaces and cover imperfections for quick natural results. Using a special light, the resin is then hardened.

## HOW LONG WILL THE PROCEDURE TAKE?

Composite bonding is a minimally invasive treatment that can create a mini smile makeover in just one long session, usually after teeth whitening and an assessment wax-up from our specialist laboratory.

## HOW LONG DOES COMPOSITE BONDING LAST?

The length of time that composite bonding will last largely depends on the individual. If cared for correctly with regular dental check-ups, most composite bonds should last for around 3-7 years.

## THE ASSESSMENT

A full dental health check and assessment is required before treatment can begin, to make sure you have a healthy mouth, categorise you and set up a treatment plan to suit your unique case.

## TREATMENT PHASE

Composite bonding can usually be carried out in just one visit to the dentist. However prior to your fitting appointment your dentist may discuss an at home whitening treatment to brighten your existing teeth before bonding. Any extra costs will also be discussed.

## THE PROCESS

Bonding is a non-invasive procedure. For composite bonding to be applied, the surface of the tooth only has to be roughened to help the resin to bond, meaning the structure of the tooth remains intact. This is done using a conditioner gel followed that is applied to your teeth for around 15 seconds before being removed and a bonding agent applied.

Now that an initial bond has been established with the tooth's surface, successive layers of dental composite are added to give the restoration its needed bulk and shape. Composite has the consistency of putty. The dentist will apply it in small portions and gently pat each into place, until that part of the restoration that they're currently building has the needed shape.

Once the composite is applied and moulded, it is then hardened using UV light, resulting in a tooth that can comfortably bite down by the end of the appointment.

A dentist will usually purposely over bulk a restoration and then use a drill to trim it back to the proper shape. As the dentist sculpts the composite, they'll use successively finer and finer grit polishing stones, burs, discs, and strips until a very smooth and shiny polish has been achieved.

Now that everything has been adjusted, the dentist will give the new restoration a final buffing and polishing

One of the great conveniences of having a bonded restoration placed is that it is fully hardened (cured) by the dentist when it's placed. This means that once your dental appointment has come to an end, your tooth is ready to be used, enjoyed and admired.