

Your First Veneer Consultation

Everything you need to prepare — the questions to ask, what your dentist should evaluate, and red flags that mean you should get a second opinion.

Pre-Visit Checklist

12 Questions to Ask

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What to Expect

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Pre-Visit Preparation Checklist

Walk into your consultation informed and ready

A veneer consultation is a clinical evaluation, not a sales appointment. The more prepared you are, the more productive the appointment will be. Use this checklist before your visit.

- ✓ Gather your dental history — previous X-rays, records of past work, and any relevant medical conditions
- ✓ Write down your goals — what specifically bothers you about your smile (color, shape, alignment, chips, gaps)
- ✓ Take clear photos of your smile in natural light — front view, side view, and close-up of teeth
- ✓ List all medications and supplements you currently take (some affect bleeding and healing)
- ✓ Note any history of teeth grinding, jaw clenching, or TMJ issues
- ✓ Research the dentist's credentials — look for advanced cosmetic training, not just general dentistry
- ✓ Ask about the consultation fee upfront — a thorough evaluation is worth paying for
- ✓ Bring examples of smiles you like — screenshots from case studies or photos of results you admire
- ✓ Plan for 60–90 minutes — a rushed 15-minute consult is a red flag
- ✓ Prepare to discuss budget honestly — a good dentist will work with you, not pressure you

Brennan's Clinical Note:

"The patients who get the best results are the ones who come in prepared. When you can clearly articulate what bothers you about your smile, I can design a plan that addresses exactly that. Vague goals lead to vague results."

12 Essential Questions to Ask

Print this page and bring it to your consultation

- 1 How many veneer cases have you completed in the last year?**
Why it matters: Look for a dentist who does this regularly — not occasionally. Volume matters for skill.
- 2 What material do you recommend for my case, and why?**
Why it matters: E.max, feldspathic, composite — each has a purpose. The answer should be specific to your teeth.
- 3 Will you evaluate my bite before recommending veneers?**
Why it matters: If the answer is no, or they seem dismissive, leave. Bite is the foundation of every successful case.
- 4 Do you use a diagnostic wax-up or digital smile design?**
Why it matters: This lets you preview the result before any tooth preparation. It should be standard practice.
- 5 What happens during the temporary veneers phase?**
Why it matters: Temps are your test drive. You should be able to request changes before the final veneers are made.
- 6 How many teeth do you recommend, and why that number?**
Why it matters: The answer should reference your smile corridor, bite, and goals — not just a standard package.
- 7 What is the total cost, and what does it include?**
Why it matters: Get a written breakdown: prep, temps, lab fees, final bonding, follow-up visits, night guard.
- 8 Do you offer financing or payment plans?**
Why it matters: Most quality practices offer CareCredit, Proceed Finance, or in-house plans.
- 9 What is your warranty or guarantee policy?**
Why it matters: Ask what happens if a veneer chips or debonds within the first year, and beyond.
- 10 Who is your ceramist, and can I see their work?**
Why it matters: The lab technician is half the equation. A great dentist with a mediocre lab produces mediocre results.
- 11 What pre-treatment might I need before veneers?**
Why it matters: Orthodontics, gum recontouring, whitening — these are normal and important steps.
- 12 Can I see before-and-after photos of your actual patients?**
Why it matters: Not stock photos. Real cases with similar concerns to yours. Best predictor of your result.

What a Thorough Evaluation Includes

This is what separates a real consultation from a sales pitch

A comprehensive veneer consultation should take 60 to 90 minutes. If a practice offers a free 15-minute consult and quotes you a price on the spot, that is not a clinical evaluation — it is a sales appointment. Here is what a thorough evaluation actually involves:

Full-Mouth X-Rays

Panoramic and periapical X-rays to assess bone levels, check for decay, identify existing restorations, and evaluate root health. This is non-negotiable.

Periodontal Assessment

Probing depths around every tooth to confirm gum health. Active gum disease must be treated before veneers can be placed.

Bite Analysis

Evaluation of how your upper and lower teeth come together. Edge-to-edge bite, deep overbite, crossbite, and wear facets all affect the treatment plan. This is the most commonly skipped step — and the most important.

Photographs and Impressions

Clinical photos from multiple angles, plus impressions or digital scans. These are sent to the ceramist for the diagnostic wax-up.

Diagnostic Wax-Up

A physical or digital preview of your final result. This is where the number of teeth, the shape, and the proportions are planned. You should see this before any tooth preparation begins.

Treatment Plan Discussion

A clear explanation of which teeth will be treated, what material will be used, whether any pre-treatment is needed, what the temporaries phase involves, and the total cost with a written breakdown.

Timeline and Expectations

How many appointments, how long each phase takes, what the temps will feel like, and when the final veneers will be bonded. No surprises.

Brennan's Clinical Note:

"If a dentist quotes you a price without taking X-rays, evaluating your bite, and discussing a wax-up, they are guessing. You deserve better than a guess for a decision this important."

Red Flags — When to Get a Second Opinion

Not every dentist who offers veneers should be doing them

Veneers are one of the most technique-sensitive procedures in dentistry. The difference between a life-changing result and a disappointing one often comes down to the provider. Watch for these warning signs:

! **Pressure to commit at the first visit**

A quality practice gives you time to review the plan, ask questions, and think. High-pressure sales tactics — limited-time discounts, same-day scheduling pressure — are a red flag.

! **No bite evaluation**

If the dentist never mentions your bite, never takes X-rays of your jaw joint, or dismisses bite concerns as unimportant, walk away. Bite is the #1 predictor of long-term veneer success.

! **Generic pricing with no examination**

A quote without X-rays, impressions, and a clinical exam is a guess. Every case is different. A responsible dentist will not give you a final number until they have done a thorough evaluation.

! **No diagnostic wax-up offered**

The wax-up is your preview. If the practice does not offer one, they are asking you to commit to a permanent change without seeing the result first.

! **Stock photos instead of real patient work**

Ask to see their actual cases. If they can only show you stock images or manufacturer photos, they may not have enough experience to show.

! **Dismissing concerns about temporaries**

The temps phase is your opportunity to request changes. If the dentist is dismissive about adjustments or rushes through this phase, the final result may not match your expectations.

! **No mention of a night guard**

Every veneer patient should be fitted for a custom night guard. If the practice does not include this in the treatment plan, they are not protecting your investment.

! **Unusually low pricing**

Veneers done well require premium materials, a skilled ceramist, and significant chair time. If the price seems too good to be true, the quality of materials or craftsmanship is likely compromised.

Brennan's Clinical Note:

"I tell every patient the same thing: if you feel rushed, pressured, or like your questions are being dismissed, get a second opinion. A great veneer result starts with a great relationship between you and your dentist. Trust your instincts."

Ready to Take the Next Step?

Get a personalized veneer cost estimate at VeneersAuthority.com/estimator

Or explore real before-and-after cases at VeneersAuthority.com/case-studies