

Your Step-by-Step Veneer Timeline

What to expect at every appointment — from your first consultation through the day your final veneers are bonded. No surprises.



Full Appointment Timeline



What Tooth Prep Really Feels Like



Living With Temporaries



The Final Bonding Day

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The 5-Step Veneer Process

Most cases complete in 4–6 weeks across 3–4 appointments

The veneer process is more straightforward than most patients expect. The longest part is the lab fabrication period — the actual chair time is minimal. Here is the complete timeline from first call to final smile.

1

Consultation & Smile Design

Your dentist performs a full clinical examination, reviews your goals, and creates a digital or physical mock-up of your proposed result. X-rays and periodontal charting are completed. If pre-treatment is needed, a plan is established before any veneer work begins.

🕒 60–90 minutes | Usually free or low-cost

2

Diagnostic Records & Final Design Approval

Impressions or digital scans, photographs, and bite records are taken. Your dentist sends these to the lab with detailed shade and shape specifications. You review and approve the final design — often via a physical wax-up or digital preview — before any tooth preparation begins.

🕒 45–60 minutes | 1–2 weeks before prep

3

Tooth Preparation & Temporaries

Under local anesthesia, your dentist removes a thin layer of enamel (0.3–0.5mm for traditional porcelain) from each tooth receiving a veneer. New impressions or scans are taken and sent to the lab. Temporary veneers are bonded to protect your prepared teeth and give you a preview of the final shape.

🕒 2–3 hours | Most significant appointment

What tooth prep actually feels like: Most patients are surprised by how comfortable this appointment is. The anesthesia is the only part that stings briefly. The prep itself is painless. Mild sensitivity for 24–48 hours afterward is normal and resolves quickly. Temporaries may feel slightly different from your natural teeth — this is expected.

4

Lab Fabrication Period

Your custom veneers are handcrafted by a dental ceramist at the lab. This typically takes 2–3 weeks. During this time you wear your temporaries. Use this period to evaluate the shape and length — your feedback can still be communicated to the lab for minor adjustments.

 2–3 weeks | No appointments needed

5

Final Bonding Appointment

Your temporaries are removed, the prepared teeth are cleaned and etched, and each veneer is tried in for fit and shade verification before permanent bonding. A special light-cured adhesive bonds each veneer permanently. Bite equilibration ensures your bite is balanced across all veneers.

 2–3 hours | The finish line

Living With Temporaries — What to Expect

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|--|---|
|  Eat normally — avoid very hard or sticky foods |  Mild sensitivity to cold is normal |
|  Brush gently with a soft-bristle brush |  Temporaries may feel slightly bulkier |
|  Floss carefully — slide out, don't pull up |  Call your dentist if one comes off |

Brennan's Clinical Note: "The temporary phase is your chance to test-drive your new smile. If the shape feels off, or the length isn't right, tell your dentist before the final bonding. Adjustments at the temporary stage cost nothing. Adjustments after permanent bonding are much more involved."

Ready to See Your Cost Estimate?

Our free 6-step estimator gives you a personalized cost range based on your scope and Colorado location — in under 3 minutes.

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