



CARR & ASSOCIATES

Cosmetic Dentistry

Improve your smile, self-esteem, and overall appearance with cosmetic dentistry! Let us develop a personalized cosmetic dentistry plan for smile enhancement with sensitivity to your needs and budget.

Veneers and Cosmetic Bonding

- In cosmetic dentistry [veneers](#) are thin shells made of porcelain that are custom shaped and then cemented to the front of the tooth. These can beautify your smile by covering imperfections such as bleach-resistant stains, chips, slight tooth crookedness, or gaps between teeth.
- Another cosmetic dentistry procedure called cosmetic bonding is used in similar situations on the front or other broken or chipped surfaces of the tooth. Cosmetic bonding is a quicker and more conservative treatment that involves the application of tooth-colored material (composite resins), rather than a porcelain shell. While cosmetic bonding is appropriate in some situations, and usually lower in cost, it does not offer the durability and longevity available with porcelain veneers. Cosmetic bonding cannot overcome some of the defects that are more appropriately treated with veneers.

Teeth Whitening in Our Office or at Home

- You may not be aware of the differences between cosmetic dentistry services as compared to an over-the-counter option you may have tried. In-office teeth-whitening services offer faster results. Protective material is used to shield the gum and other oral tissue prior to the application of a bleaching agent. An ultraviolet (UV) light may be used to further enhance the effect of the bleach; however, we take care to expose only the teeth and not the other tissue that might be harmed by UV exposure.
- Cosmetic dentistry does offer you an at-home treatment option, even though the results won't be as quick as the in-office cosmetic whitening services. Our at-home teeth whitening treatments begin with producing a custom mouth guard that fits your teeth exactly, unlike over-the-counter products. At home, you'll place a whitening gel in the mouth guard to perform the whitening procedure. Your customized plan for in-office or at-home cosmetic whitening will help you understand both the appropriate treatment plan and recommended frequency. As with all our cosmetic dentistry procedures, we are careful to use systems, equipment, and devise treatment plans that help to minimize the possibility of irritation or damage to oral tissues and teeth.



Composite/Tooth-Colored Fillings

- A composite filling is a mixture of tooth-colored material that can be used as an alternative to traditional silver fillings to repair decayed teeth. In cosmetic dentistry, composites are also used in reshaping the teeth or altering their color to enhance your smile. The composite filling is applied in layers, with the final step being the smoothing and polishing of the surface area that completes this cosmetic dentistry process.

Crowns and Bridges

- In cosmetic dentistry, a crown (sometimes referred to as a "cap") is used to repair a tooth that has been broken, cracked, or damaged in such a way that a filling is not an option for restoration.
- Crowns can also be used to keep weak teeth from breaking, and to improve the look of badly shaped or severely discolored teeth. To put on a crown - whether for cosmetic or oral health purposes, we shape the tooth and reduce its size so that a crown can fit over it.
- We then create impressions of your teeth that will allow us to create a customized crown especially for your tooth. The impressions allow us to maximize the functionality as well as the cosmetic appearance of the crown. While the crown is being made, we place a temporary crown over the tooth.
- On your next visit, the temporary crown will be removed and the permanent crown will be cemented in place. A fixed bridge is another cosmetic dentistry procedure that provides a false tooth that is fused between two crowns to fill in the gap where a tooth is missing.
- This cosmetic procedure is used to replace one or more missing teeth. It cannot be removed from your mouth like dentures could be. An increasingly popular cosmetic dentistry alternative to a bridge is a [dental implant](#).