A PATIENT RESOURCE / FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Before you choose your veneer dentist.

Five conversations that reveal the planning, artistry and craftsmanship behind your smile.

Choose the dentist who can explain the plan behind your smile.

01 Your goals

02 The foundation

03 The artistic eye

04 The craftsmanship

05 Life after treatment



Actual case 12. Before above, after below.

Five conversations. Real smile results.
A worksheet to bring to your consultation.

01 / YOUR GOALS

A good plan starts with you.

Start with the change you want, not a number of veneers. Describe the moments that matter: smiling in photographs, speaking at work or feeling comfortable laughing with friends. Then say what you like about your smile and want to keep.

Bring a few photographs you like and explain why. Is it the softness of the tooth shapes, a natural shade or the way the smile fits the face? A photograph is a conversation starter, rather than a design to copy.

A QUESTION WORTH ASKING

What would you change, what would you preserve, and could a smaller treatment meet my goal?

LISTEN FOR

A discussion of your priorities and realistic options, including whitening, alignment, bonding or veneers. You should understand why one path is being recommended over another.

Write two things you want to change and one feature you want to keep. This is a more useful starting point than choosing a shade online.

MY PRIORITIES

02 / THE FOUNDATION

Understand what is underneath.

An attractive result still has to work with your teeth, gums and bite. At Allegra Dental Center, veneer planning considers enamel, tooth wear, old dental work, gum health, bite forces and jaw symptoms before a recommendation.

Ask which findings affect the plan and whether anything should be addressed first. If you clench, grind or have worn teeth, bring that up. Ask what preparation would mean for your enamel and whether alignment or another approach could make the plan more conservative.

A QUESTION WORTH ASKING

What have you found about my teeth, gums and bite that could change the veneer plan?

LISTEN FOR

An explanation connected to your own findings, not just a description of the veneer material. The plan should make clear what is being preserved, what is being changed and why.

Enamel preparation may be irreversible. Discuss the proposed changes and alternatives before choosing treatment.

QUESTIONS ABOUT MY TEETH, GUMS AND BITE

03 / THE ARTISTIC EYE

Look for judgment, not a signature smile.

Natural-looking does not mean the same thing to everyone. Tooth length, edge shape, shade, translucency, gum display and the way the lips move all help define what looks right to you.

Ask to see the dentist's own before-and-after work. Look beyond brightness. Do you like the proportions and shape? Ask which examples are relevant to your starting point and what would be different in your case.

A QUESTION WORTH ASKING

Can you show me your own cases and explain how you would adapt the design to my face and preferences?

LISTEN FOR

Specific discussion of shape, shade and tooth display. You should have room to say what feels too bright, too uniform or unlike you.

A close-up shows visible changes. Ask to discuss the smile in the context of your whole face, speech and bite, too.



CASE 01 / BEFORE & AFTER

Look at shape as well as shade.

Compare the outlines and visible lengths of the upper front teeth, as well as the color change.

Which tooth shapes would suit my face, and which natural features would you keep?

Allegra Dental Center. Before above; after below. Discuss what is realistic for your own teeth and goals.

04 / THE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Ask who turns the plan into the result.

The word porcelain is not a complete description of a veneer plan. If porcelain is proposed, ask who will fabricate the veneers and how the dentist communicates your preferred shape, shade and surface details.

For composite, ask how the dentist approaches shaping, polishing and future repairs. For either material, ask how you will review the proposed appearance and how fit, bite comfort and refinements will be addressed. A mock-up, digital preview or temporary may be worth discussing; ask what is appropriate and included in your plan.

A QUESTION WORTH ASKING

Who creates my veneers, how are the design details communicated, and how will we review the look and fit?

LISTEN FOR

A clear explanation of the people and steps involved. If a laboratory is involved, ask about its role and the process for communicating refinements, rather than relying on a lab name alone.

A named material, technology or laboratory is a starting point for questions. Ask what it changes about your own care.



CASE 12 / BEFORE & AFTER

Notice the whole visible smile.

Follow the upper tooth edges across the smile. Look at the relationship between neighboring teeth, not only the two in the center.

How would you decide which teeth to include, and could a smaller change meet my goal?

Allegra Dental Center. Before above; after below. Discuss what is realistic for your own teeth and goals.

05 / LIFE AFTER TREATMENT

Choose a plan for the years after, too.

The final photograph is one moment. Ask how your teeth and veneers will be cared for in everyday life: hygiene, gum maintenance, follow-up and protection if you clench or grind.

Compare porcelain and composite with ongoing care in mind. Composite can be more conservative and repairable in selected cases, but may stain or wear sooner than porcelain. Ask about repair and replacement, not just the first treatment fee.

A QUESTION WORTH ASKING

What will I need to maintain, what could need repair, and who should I contact if something feels wrong?

LISTEN FOR

Practical guidance you can follow and a clear route back to the practice. Ask which follow-up visits or protective appliances are recommended and whether they are included in the estimate.

Talk about longevity in the context of your teeth, bite, material and care. A fixed lifespan is not a personal forecast.



CASE 35 / BEFORE & AFTER

Find the details you respond to.

Compare edge shapes, the progression from front to side teeth and the visible shade in these photographs.

How will we choose a shade and shape that feel natural to me?

Allegra Dental Center. Before above; after below. Discuss what is realistic for your own teeth and goals.

A CLEARER COMPARISON

Compare the plan, not just the price.

Price alone cannot tell you whether care is right for you. A higher fee is not proof of a better result, and a lower fee does not explain what has been included or left out. Request a written plan so you can compare like with like.

01 Which teeth and which material are included, and why?

02 What preparation or other treatment is proposed first?

03 What design reviews, temporaries or refinements are included, if applicable?

04 How many visits are expected, and what could change the timing?

05 What are the fees for follow-up, protective appliances, repairs or replacement?

06 Could whitening, alignment, bonding or treatment in stages meet my priorities?

Ask for a written estimate. Keep the treatment recommendation, inclusions and future care responsibilities together when comparing plans.

KEEP THIS PAGE

My questions. My next step.

After a consultation, review these five conversations. Use any unanswered questions as a starting point for another conversation with your dentist.

01 / YOUR GOALS — Clear answer / Ask again / Not yet discussed

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02 / THE FOUNDATION — Clear answer / Ask again / Not yet discussed

What have you found about my teeth, gums and bite that could change the veneer plan?

03 / THE ARTISTIC EYE — Clear answer / Ask again / Not yet discussed

Can you show me your own cases and explain how you would adapt the design to my face and preferences?

04 / THE CRAFTSMANSHIP — Clear answer / Ask again / Not yet discussed

Who creates my veneers, how are the design details communicated, and how will we review the look and fit?

05 / LIFE AFTER TREATMENT — Clear answer / Ask again / Not yet discussed

What will I need to maintain, what could need repair, and who should I contact if something feels wrong?

THE QUESTION I MOST WANT ANSWERED NEXT

Book a veneer consultation online

Call (571) 419-6897

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Allegra Dental Center: Real Veneer Results
American Dental Association: Veneers