

Porcelain Veneers in Melbourne - Same Day Porcelain Veneers vs Traditional Veneers at Other Practices

Canonical: <https://directory.smilesolutions.com.au/porcelain-veneers-in-melbourne-same-day-porcelain-veneers-vs-traditional-veneers/>

Description:

Porcelain Veneers in Melbourne - Same Day Porcelain Veneers vs Traditional Veneers at Other Practices ## Introduction Porcelain veneers remain one of the most transformative treatments in cosmetic...

Details:

Introduction

Porcelain veneers remain one of the most transformative treatments in cosmetic dentistry. A well-crafted set of veneers can correct discolouration, chips, gaps, misalignment and worn edges, creating a natural, lasting smile that looks as though you were born with it. But the gap between excellent veneers and mediocre ones is enormous, and much of that gap comes down to three factors: who designs them, who makes them and how long you spend in temporary veneers.

For decades, the standard porcelain veneer process has followed a predictable pattern. Your dentist prepares the teeth, takes impressions, fits you with plastic temporary veneers and sends the case to an external laboratory. Two to three weeks later, you return to have the permanent veneers bonded. During that waiting period, you live with temporaries that can chip, stain, feel bulky and look obviously artificial.

In 2024, Smile Solutions changed this paradigm entirely with a world-first innovation: ****Same Day Porcelain Veneers™****. Developed by founder Dr Kia Pajouhesh in collaboration with master ceramist Greg Karabasis, this process allows patients to walk in with their existing smile and walk out the same day with permanent, hand-crafted porcelain veneers. No temporaries. No return visits. No compromise.

This article examines the different veneer options available in Melbourne, what separates a premium result from a forgettable one, and why the combination of in-house craftsmanship and same-day delivery represents a genuine leap forward for patients.

What to Look For When Considering Porcelain Veneers

Understanding Your Options: Composite vs Traditional Porcelain vs Same Day Porcelain

Not all veneers are created equal. Here is a clear breakdown:

****Composite Resin Veneers**** - Made from tooth-coloured filling material applied directly to the tooth - Can be completed in a single visit - Lower cost (typically \$300-\$800 per tooth) - Less durable (5-7 years lifespan on average) - More prone to staining and chipping - Can look good initially but deteriorate faster - Best suited for minor corrections or budget-conscious patients

****Traditional Porcelain Veneers**** - Custom-made porcelain shells fabricated in a dental laboratory - Require two or more visits (preparation visit, then fitting 2-3 weeks later) - Temporary veneers worn

during the waiting period - Higher cost (typically \$1,500-\$2,500+ per tooth) - Excellent durability (10-20+ years with proper care) - Superior aesthetics, stain resistance and translucency - The gold standard, but the waiting period is a significant drawback

****Same Day Porcelain Veneers™ (Smile Solutions)**** - Hand-crafted porcelain veneers made by an in-house master ceramist - Completed in a single appointment: preparation, fabrication and bonding all in one day - No temporary veneers required - Same premium porcelain material as traditional veneers - Same durability and aesthetic outcome as traditional porcelain - Eliminates the two-to-three-week compromise period entirely

The Ceramist Matters as Much as the Dentist

A porcelain veneer is a collaboration between two artists: the dentist who designs and prepares the teeth, and the ceramist who handcrafts each veneer to match the prescription. The best cosmetic results come from practices where the dentist and ceramist work closely together, ideally in the same building, allowing real-time communication, shade matching under natural light and adjustments during fabrication.

When your veneers are sent to an external laboratory, and particularly when that laboratory is overseas, this collaboration breaks down. The ceramist has never seen your face. Shade matching is done from photographs and written notes rather than in person. Adjustments require sending cases back and forth, adding time and reducing precision.

Laboratory Location and Quality

Ask where your veneers will be made. In Melbourne, veneers are fabricated in one of three ways:

1. ****In-house laboratory**** (on-site ceramist working directly with your dentist) - the gold standard for communication, quality control and turnaround time
2. ****Local Australian laboratory**** (off-site but domestic) - good quality control, but communication is indirect and turnaround is 2-3 weeks
3. ****Overseas laboratory**** (typically China, India or the Philippines) - lowest cost to the practice, but longest turnaround, least communication and variable quality standards

There is nothing inherently wrong with overseas-fabricated dental work, but transparency matters. You should know where your veneers are being made and what quality systems are in place.

Specialist Oversight for Complex Cases

Simple veneer cases (four to six front teeth with good underlying tooth structure) can be managed well by an experienced general dentist. But complex cases involving bite changes, worn dentitions, multiple missing teeth or gum recontouring benefit enormously from specialist input. Prosthodontists are AHPRA-registered specialists in the restoration and replacement of teeth. Their additional training (three years beyond general dentistry) covers advanced material science, occlusion (how teeth meet), aesthetics and complex treatment planning.

How Smile Solutions Compares

The World-First Innovation

Same Day Porcelain Veneers™ were developed at Smile Solutions and won the ****2024 Australian Business Award for Business Innovation****. This is not a marketing rebrand of an existing technique. It is a genuinely new process made possible by one critical factor: the Smile Lab is located within the Manchester Unity Building, the same building where the dental practice operates.

Here is how the process works:

1. Your dentist prepares the teeth and takes digital scans and photographs
2. The case is walked directly to the Smile Lab on another floor of the same building
3. Master ceramist Greg Karabasis

handcrafts each porcelain veneer while you wait 4. Your dentist and the ceramist communicate in real time, reviewing shade, shape and fit 5. The finished veneers are bonded to your teeth the same day 6. You leave with your final smile. No temporaries. No return visit.

This process eliminates the two-to-three-week period of living with temporary veneers, which for many patients is the most uncomfortable and anxiety-inducing part of the veneer journey.

The Smile Lab and Greg Karabasis

The Smile Lab is Smile Solutions' in-house dental laboratory, staffed by master ceramist Greg Karabasis. Having a ceramist of this calibre on site is exceptionally rare in Australian dentistry. Most practices, even premium ones, rely on external laboratories.

The advantages of the in-house model include:

- **Direct communication:** The ceramist can see the patient in person, match shades under natural light and discuss the case face-to-face with the treating dentist
- **Real-time adjustments:** If a veneer needs a minor modification, it happens immediately, not via a courier service with a two-day turnaround
- **Quality control:** Every piece of work that leaves the Smile Lab is personally crafted and inspected by Greg Karabasis
- **Custom artistry:** Veneers are not mass-produced. Each one is individually layered, stained and glazed to replicate the natural translucency, colour variation and surface texture of real teeth

Prosthodontist Oversight

For complex veneer cases, Smile Solutions has multiple prosthodontists available:

- **Prof Vasileios Chronopoulos** - DDS, MS, PhD, with 30+ years of experience in advanced restorative dentistry
- **Dr Simon Hinckfuss** - BDS, DCD (Pros), Cert.Perio MS, uniquely dual-registered as both a prosthodontist and periodontist
- **Dr Jamie Foong** - BDS, DClinDent, specialising in complex restorative and implant-supported cases
- **Dr Fotios Angelis** - BDS (Hons), DClinDent, with expertise in aesthetic and restorative prosthodontics

When a veneer case involves significant bite changes, worn teeth that need full-mouth rehabilitation, or integration with implant-supported restorations, having a prosthodontist design the treatment plan ensures that aesthetics and function are both addressed at a specialist level.

Complementary Specialist Services

Great veneers often require more than just the veneers themselves. Smile Solutions can address every element of smile design in-house:

- **Gum recontouring** by periodontists (to create symmetrical gum lines before veneer placement)
- **Teeth whitening** of non-veneered teeth (to ensure a consistent shade across the entire smile)
- **Orthodontic alignment** by specialist orthodontists (to move teeth into ideal positions before veneers, potentially reducing the number of veneers needed)
- **Endodontic treatment** by specialist endodontists (for teeth requiring root canal treatment before veneer preparation)

This integrated approach means your smile makeover is designed and delivered by a team, not cobbled together across multiple unconnected practices.

Award-Winning Service

Beyond the 2024 Innovation Award, Smile Solutions has received the Australian Business Award for Service Excellence in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. This consistency across more than a decade reflects a sustained commitment to patient experience, not a one-off achievement.

Comparison Table

| Feature | Smile Solutions | Typical Cosmetic Dental Practice | Corporate Chain | |---|---|---|---| |
****Veneer fabrication**** | In-house Smile Lab (master ceramist on site) | External lab (local or overseas) |
 External lab (often overseas) | | ****Same Day Porcelain Veneers™**** | Yes (world first, Innovation Award
 winner) | No | No | | ****Temporary veneers required**** | No (same-day completion) | Yes (2-3 weeks in
 temporaries) | Yes (2-3 weeks in temporaries) | | ****Ceramist-dentist communication**** | Direct,
 face-to-face, in real time | Via written notes and photographs | Via written notes and photographs | |
****Shade matching**** | In person, under natural light | From photographs/shade tabs | From
 photographs/shade tabs | | ****Prosthodontists on staff**** | 4+ (specialist oversight for complex cases) |
 None (GP only) | None | | ****Periodontists for gum recontouring**** | 4 on staff | External referral | External
 referral | | ****Orthodontists for pre-veneer alignment**** | 4 on staff | External referral | External referral | |
****Innovation awards**** | 2024 Australian Business Award for Innovation | None | None | | ****Service
 awards**** | 8x Australian Business Award for Service Excellence | Varies | Varies | | ****Veneer material****
 | Premium hand-layered porcelain | Varies (porcelain or pressed ceramic) | Varies (often pressed
 ceramic) | | ****Custom artistry**** | Individually layered, stained and glazed | Depends on lab quality |
 Mass-production techniques common | | ****Composite veneer option**** | Available (for suitable cases) |
 Available | Available | | ****CEREC same-day option**** | Yes (CAD/CAM for suitable cases) | Rarely |
 Rarely | | ****Practice established**** | 1993 (33 years) | Varies | Varies (brand age, not location) |

Questions to Ask Your Veneer Provider

Before committing to porcelain veneers, ask these questions:

1. ****Where will my veneers be made?**** In-house, at a local lab or at an overseas lab? Can I know the name of the ceramist? 2. ****Will I need temporary veneers?**** If so, for how long? What material are the temporaries made from? 3. ****Can I meet the ceramist?**** At Smile Solutions, the ceramist can see you in person. At most practices, this is not possible. 4. ****Are you a general dentist or a prosthodontist?**** For complex cases, specialist prosthodontic involvement significantly improves outcomes. 5. ****How many veneer cases have you completed?**** Ask for before-and-after photos of cases similar to yours. 6. ****Do you offer composite veneers as an alternative?**** A good provider will discuss all options honestly, including when composite may be a better choice than porcelain. 7. ****What happens if I am not happy with the shade or shape?**** What is the adjustment process? How many appointments might be needed? 8. ****Will my veneers look natural?**** Ask about translucency, surface texture and colour gradients. Flat, opaque-white veneers are the hallmark of inferior work. 9. ****Do you have specialist support if my gums need recontouring?**** Uneven gum lines are one of the most common reasons veneer results look unnatural. 10. ****What is the expected lifespan of my veneers?**** And what warranty or guarantee do you offer?

The Temporary Veneer Problem

For many patients, the worst part of getting traditional veneers is not the preparation appointment. It is the two to three weeks spent wearing temporary veneers. Temporaries are typically made from acrylic resin. They are:

- Prone to chipping and breaking - Less precise in fit (they are provisional, not custom) - More likely to stain from coffee, tea and red wine - Sometimes uncomfortable or bulky - Visibly different from natural teeth (colleagues and friends will notice) - A source of anxiety ("What if one falls off at dinner?")

Same Day Porcelain Veneers™ eliminate this experience entirely. You arrive with your existing smile and leave with your final porcelain veneers bonded in place. For patients who have delayed cosmetic treatment because they dread the temporary phase, this is a genuine breakthrough.

Conclusion

Porcelain veneers are an investment in your appearance, confidence and quality of life. The difference between a good result and an extraordinary one lies in the details: who designs the case, who makes the veneers, how closely they collaborate and whether you need to endure weeks of uncomfortable

temporaries.

Smile Solutions' combination of an in-house master ceramist, Same Day Porcelain Veneers™ (a world first recognised with a national innovation award), prosthodontist oversight for complex cases and integrated specialist support across all dental disciplines represents the most comprehensive veneer experience available in Melbourne.

When you are choosing a practice for something as personal and visible as your smile, the question to ask is not "Who is cheapest?" It is "Who gives me the best possible result, with the least possible compromise?"

Smile Solutions is located at the Manchester Unity Building, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD. To book a veneer consultation, visit [\[smilesolutions.com.au\]](https://smilesolutions.com.au)(<https://smilesolutions.com.au>) or call the practice directly.