



Dental Bonding

Dental bonding is among the easiest and least expensive of cosmetic dental procedures. Unlike veneers and crowns, which are customized tooth coverings that must be manufactured in a lab, bonding usually can be done in one office visit unless several teeth are involved. Another advantage, compared with veneers and crowns, is that the least amount of tooth enamel is removed. Also, unless dental bonding is being performed to fill a cavity, anesthesia is usually not required.

Although the material used in dental bonding is stain resistant, it does not resist stains as long as crowns. Another disadvantage is that the bonding materials do not last as long nor are as strong as other restorative procedures, such as crowns, veneers, or fillings. Because of some of the limitations of dental bonding, some dentists view it as best suited for small cosmetic changes, for temporary correction of cosmetic defects, and for correction of teeth in areas of very low bite pressure (for example, front teeth). The 4 front teeth in the picture below were realised with composite Filtekk Supreme XTE from 3M using the bonding technique at Luxadent Dental Office.

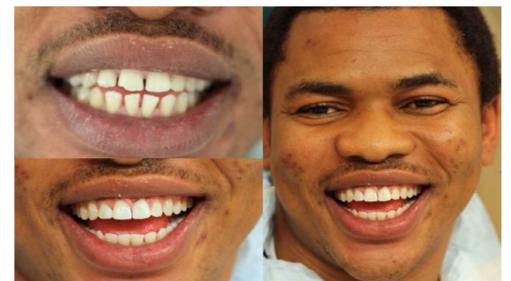
Dental bonding is an option that can be considered:

To repair decayed teeth (composites to fill cavities)

- ☑ To repair chipped or cracked teeth
- ☑ To improve the appearance of discolored teeth
- ☑ To close spaces between teeth
- ☑ To make teeth look longer
- ☑ To change the shape of teeth
- ☑ As a cosmetic alternative to amalgam fillings
- ☑ To protect a portion of the tooth's root that has been exposed when gum retracts.



The three case below are all examples of dental bonding techniques. The composite used was Filtekk Supreme XTE from 3M.



Inlays and onlays.



An inlay or onlay is a type of material which is placed inside or over the surface of a decayed or damaged tooth and are seen as a good alternative to a crown. They are made from a variety of materials such as gold or ceramic and cover the top surface of a tooth. The main benefit is that they fit in well with the rest of your teeth. The material used is 'tooth coloured' and has a realistic appearance which is good news from a cosmetic point of view. Many people choose this type of inlay and/or onlay as a replacement for their amalgam fillings. They find this type of filling ugly looking and unsightly and prefer to have a type of filling which is hard to distinguish from the rest of their teeth. This sometimes form part of an overall 'smile makeover' in which various procedures are performed to improve the look of the teeth and as a confidence boost.

There is no risk of the inlays and onlays becoming discoloured over time. They are easy to clean as part of a daily dental routine and provide extra support for a tooth. This procedure is the same for all types of inlays and onlays. It involves two visits to the dentist as opposed to the single visit undertaken for a standard filling. The dentist will explain the procedure to you and will discuss the various types of materials used in inlays and onlays. These include gold, ceramic and composite resin. The dentist will examine the affected tooth before taking an impression of this using a putty filled mould. This requires you to bite into the dental putty which leaves an imprint of the tooth which will be used to create the inlay or onlay. The inlay or onlay is fabricated at a dental laboratory. Your affected tooth will be covered with a temporary inlay or onlay (known as a 'temp') during this time. On your second visit the temp is removed and replaced with your new inlay or onlay. This is secured in place with dental cement before being given a final polish. The inlays and onlays are now made with CAD/CAM procedures. For people who grind their teeth, full zirconia cadcam milled inlays are available. These are very strong and almost unbreakable.

