

Dental Bonding

This is a *Tooth Restorative* procedure. It is the application of a tooth-colored resin material using adhesives and a high intensity curing light. The procedure is named because materials are bonded to the tooth.

Dental Bonding can be used, but is not limited to, the following dental conditions:

- to repair decayed teeth (Composite resins used 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 restorative material
- to protect a portion of the tooth's root and/or biting surface

Pros and Cons of Dental Bonding

Pros- Dental bonding is one of the most common and least expensive of all procedures. It can usually be done in one office visit unless multiple teeth are involved. One of the largest advantages to bonding is that compared to veneers and crowns, it requires little to no removal of tooth enamel unless it is decayed.

Cons- The material used in dental bonding is not as strong as your real teeth, so biting fingernails or chewing on hard objects can actually chip the material. Bonding may only last a few years before needing repair from chipping or staining compared to porcelain veneers and crowns.

Caring for Bonded Teeth

Bonded teeth are really no different than your natural teeth in your home care. Following good oral health care with daily brushing and flossing will assist in maintaining clean teeth and a healthy smile. Because the material used in bonding can chip, it is best to avoid biting hard objects that may cause damage.