

The True Costs of Cosmetic Dental Work

A fee survey was conducted among expert cosmetic dentists from coast to coast in the US in December 2005. This information is provided in order to help you budget, not to help you find the cheapest cosmetic dentistry.

- The cost of porcelain veneers varies from \$975-\$2200 per veneer, depending on the area of the country.
- The cost of all-porcelain crowns is about the same as the cost of porcelain veneers in most expert cosmetic dentistry offices and varies from \$950 per crown up to \$2200.
- The cost of white fillings for back teeth is charged according to the number of surfaces covered by the fillings. For a one-surface filling, fees range from \$150-\$250. For two surfaces, the cost is \$200-\$400. For three surfaces, expect to pay from \$250-\$500.
- The cost for bonding a front tooth, when that bonding involves one of the corners of the tooth, will vary from \$300-\$1600.
- The cost for invisible braces ranges from \$5000-\$7700.

To be a wise dental consumer, you need to understand some basic information about cosmetic dentistry in general.

- Cosmetic dentistry, while it requires great expertise, is not a legally distinct specialty. Therefore, if you end up with low-quality esthetic dental work, your legal recourse is generally only to challenge the work from a functional perspective. Your work will be judged by the standard of quality of general dentistry, not the standard of excellent cosmetic dentistry. So if you choose a dentist because the fees are low, you generally have no recourse if the work does not meet your esthetic expectations.
- To become an expert cosmetic dentist, a dentist has to spend many hours away from the office in continuing education. Not only are the course fees high, but the cost in lost time away from the office is much higher. Naturally, the cosmetic dentist will want to be compensated for this tremendous expense by charging more for these procedures than a general dentist.
- Dental insurance plans are designed to provide you with a basic standard of general dental care. The insurance company may help you pay for a crown to physically protect your tooth but won't pay the extra cost required to make it beautiful. Furthermore, some dental insurance plans maintain lists of dentists called "preferred providers" or "network dentists" who are willing to discount their fees in order to receive referrals from the insurance company. Don't expect any expert cosmetic dentists to agree to these insurance company terms.

- Beautiful cosmetic dentistry requires the use of expensive materials, first-class cosmetic dental labs, and usually extra time and effort on the part of the cosmetic dentist. All these extra costs are factored into the fee.

Price-shopping for cosmetic dentistry could be an invitation for real trouble. If your dentist's fees are considerably lower than these ranges, I would seriously question the cosmetic dentistry expertise of your dentist. It is extremely difficult for a dentist to provide beautiful cosmetic dentistry for fees that are much lower than those posted here. Also, don't assume that because your dentist's fees are within or higher than this range that the work is high quality. I know of ugly and incompetent cosmetic dentistry where very high fees were charged.

To see some beautiful cosmetic dentistry before and after photos please visit our website www.drdell.com. For more information or to schedule a free consultation you can call our office, A Unique Dental Experience® at 661-254-4000.

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