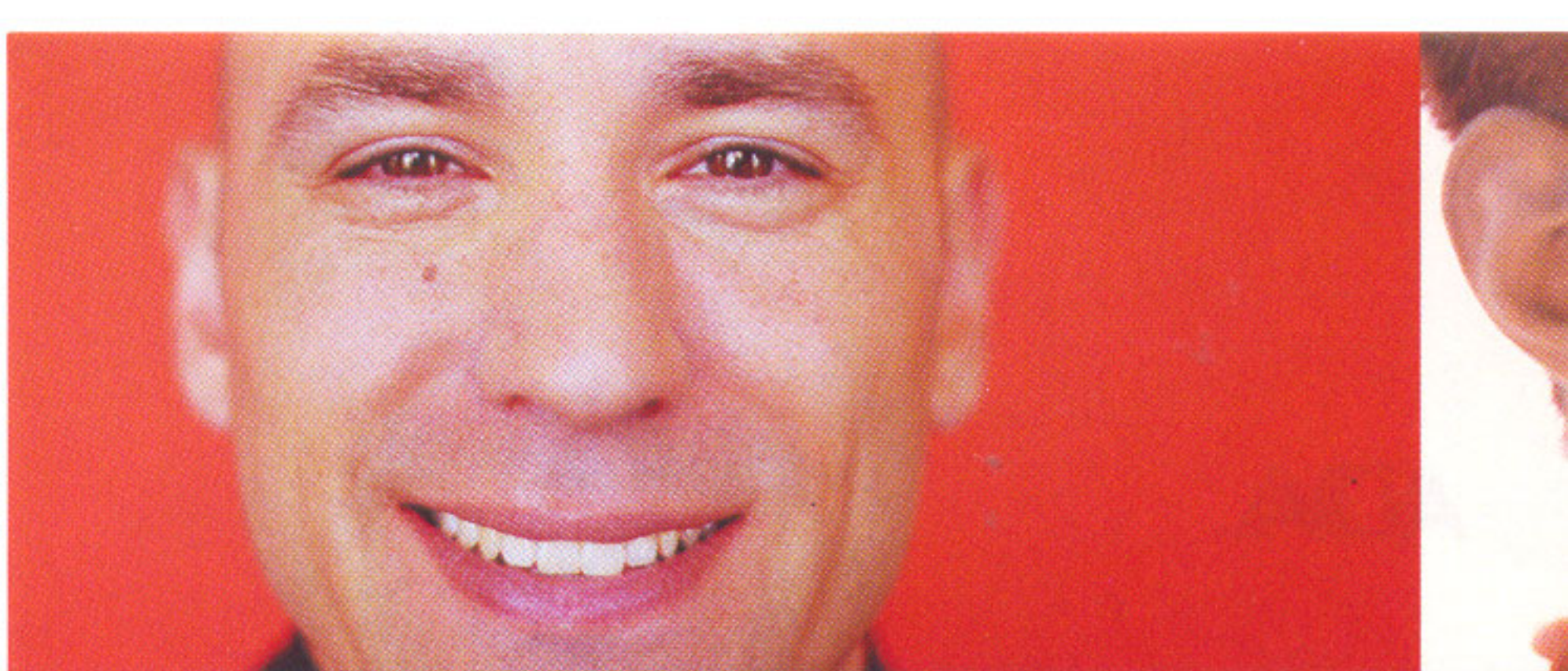


ADA®

Ask your dentist about

BONDING



A procedure called bonding can quickly and comfortably improve your appearance: (1) if you have chips, cracks or gaps in your teeth; (2) if you have severely stained teeth as a result of antibiotic drugs given to you during childhood; or (3) if you simply want to improve your smile. Bonding uses tooth-colored materials called composite resins to repair chips or cracks or transform gaps into an attractive, natural-looking smile.

Uses of Bonding

Bonding is a term used to describe a number of procedures that involve applying composite resins to the tooth. It can be used strictly for cosmetic purposes or to repair cracked and chipped teeth, or protect the teeth against decay. Regardless of its use, bonding can provide an attractive result. Listed below are some common uses of bonding.

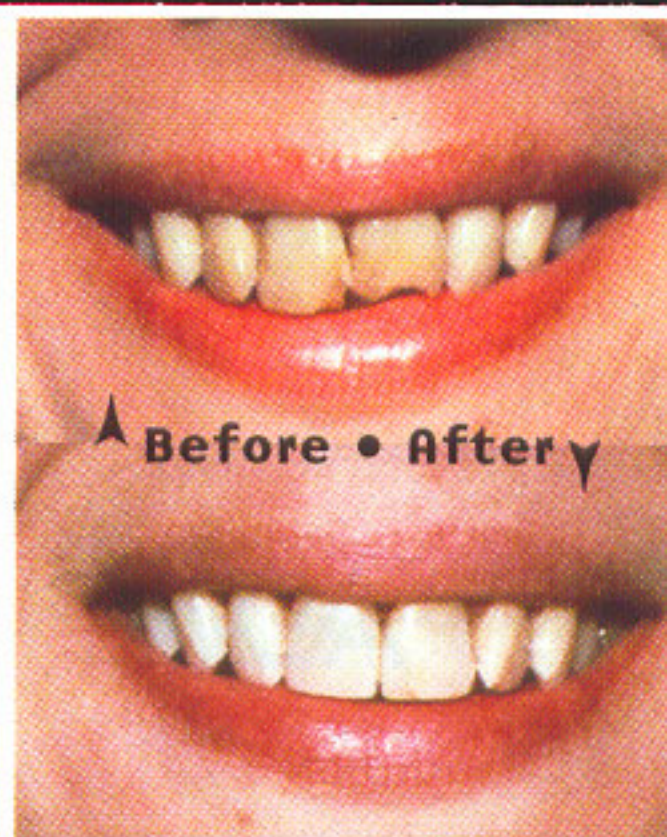
Masking deep stains

Certain antibiotics given to children while their permanent teeth are developing can cause ugly dark staining deep inside the teeth. Bonding can cover these stains.

Closing gaps and repairing chips and cracks

Composite resins are used to close small gaps between front teeth and to repair some chips and cracks. This procedure readily improves your appearance and can help protect damaged teeth.

BON



Protecting exposed roots

Composite resins also are used to protect exposed tooth roots, which commonly result from gum recession. Because roots are composed mostly of dentin, a softer tissue than enamel, they are more susceptible to decay, wear and erosion. Composite resins (in combination with adhesive resins) are applied to the tooth roots to treat sensitivity to temperature extremes, which occurs when tooth roots are left exposed.

Restoring decayed teeth

Composite resins may be used to fill small cavities. Because composites are tooth-colored, they usually are preferred for front teeth. In fact, they are almost impossible to distinguish from the natural tooth.

Procedure

Bonding often is completed in one visit and does not require drilling. The process involves preparing the tooth surface with an etching solution that allows the composite resins to adhere. To match your teeth, various color resins carefully are blended so the bonded tooth will look natural.

The resin is applied, contoured into the proper shape and hardened using a special light or chemical process. It then is smoothed and polished to appear natural. Sometimes a follow-up appointment will be required for final polishing and finishing.

Maintenance Tips

Because bonding material is not as strong and natural as tooth enamel, it can chip and may have to be replaced periodically. Bonded areas of the tooth also are prone to stain. For these reasons, bonding requires careful home and professional maintenance. You can help maintain your bonding by following these tips:

Remember that smoking, drinking coffee or tea, and eating berries may stain bonding.

Do not put excess pressure on resins. Chewing ice, popcorn kernels and hard candy can cause damage.

BONDING



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