5 Dental Disasters and How to Avoid Them

At the Atlanta Center for Cosmetic Dentistry we regularly see patients looking to fix cosmetic work not up to par. Over the past 30 years, we have seen it all and want to help you avoid these costly mistakes.

What are common mistakes in cosmetic dentistry and how can you avoid them?

Mistake #1: Unnecessary Loss of Tooth Structure

A common concern we hear from patients is the fear of having their teeth “ground down to nubs”. This is not true for veneers and with a highly trained and experienced cosmetic dentist it may not be necessary to remove any tooth structure.

How to Avoid It

At the Atlanta Center for Cosmetic Dentistry, we can create beautiful smiles with little to no loss of your natural tooth structure. This can be achieved with Pearls, our ultra-thin veneers. With our minimally invasive techniques you can rest assured we will preserve your smile while still giving you lasting results. Our doctors care about the health of your smile as much as the overall appearance.

The image below shows one of our patients who received beautiful results with Pearls.

DeAnna Johnson, Miss Georgia USA 2018
Mistake #2: A smile that doesn't fit your face

We often meet people who want their smile to look just like their favorite celebrity. It takes a skilled dentist to give you a celebrity smile that fits your face. Each smile is different and should complement your features, bone structure, skin tone, etc. Although a celebrity may have a beautiful smile, that doesn't mean it will look good on any face. What would happen if your dentist gave you the exact smile of your favorite celebrity? As you can see, Julia Roberts’ smile does not fit this patient’s face.

How to Avoid It

Your cosmetic dentist should talk to you about what aspects you like about the celebrity’s smile. Then, how to incorporate those elements into your smile design, making your smile even more radiant than the celebrity’s.

It takes artistic ability and extensive knowledge to create and perfect a smile design. The techniques require precise measurements based upon mouth shape, gum lines, lips, and natural shape of the teeth. This is why we devote all the time needed for a precise smile transformation planning prior to starting any smile restoration process. This is not an area where you want to use estimations or “eyeball it”. Our team goes to great lengths to ensure your smile is tailored perfectly.

Mistake #3: The Bargain Hunt

You may have heard the joke about the hair salon that opened up across the street from the town’s master barber. The newcomers put up a big sign that read, “We give $7 haircuts.” Amused, the barber put up his own sign: “We fix $7 haircuts!” The adage, “you get what you pay for,” is certainly true in many scenarios, and this includes cosmetic dentistry.
Ask yourself:
- What is my smile worth to me?
- How does it make me feel?
- How could a gorgeous new smile change my life?

Like all purchases, cost is relative to value. In our practice, all cosmetic dentistry is tailored to the individual needs and wants of the patient. No two patients are alike. The cost of our cosmetic procedures, for any one patient, can range from as little as a few hundred dollars to thousands of dollars. That's because cosmetic procedures can range from entry-level procedures, such as tooth whitening, to complex full-mouth restorations. Some offices claim to get the same results for less but ask yourself, what corners are they cutting? You only get one set of teeth – treat them well!

*Mistake #4: Bulky Teeth*

Have you ever encountered someone and immediately thought of Mr. Wilson from Dennis the Menace? Bulky teeth or “Chiclet teeth” as they are commonly known can be the result of cheap material or an inexperienced dentist.

The best cosmetic dentists are true artists. In creating your smile they will be able to mimic the translucency and ridges of natural teeth. At the Atlanta Center for Cosmetic Dentistry we work with accredited master ceramists. They use the highest quality porcelain which will give you the most natural-looking results.
Mistake #5: Dentists who promise but don’t deliver

It is no secret that people use cosmetic dentistry to improve their smiles. But, truly beautiful cosmetic work looks so natural it often goes unnoticed. Unnatural looking smiles are often a result of an inexperienced dentist, cheap material, or an inexpensive lab. The following example shows that not all cosmetic dentistry is created equal.

Tom Cruise’s smile is greatly improved from his youth, but you can easily see it is off-center and his teeth are disproportionate.

How to Avoid It

In general dentistry there is a “fix it” mentality. A tooth is broken – the dentist repairs it. There’s a cavity – the dentist fills it. The dentist knows what works and what holds up over time and little input is needed from the patient.

In aesthetic dentistry the dentist is creating and designing. For this task, the dentist needs to be observant and listen to how you feel about your smile. They may ask you questions like, “Why do you want a smile makeover?” or simply “How white do you want your teeth?”. The dentist is treating your self-perception, and everything needs to be geared toward creating a smile that will give you confidence in addition to holding up over time.

Additionally, a skilled cosmetic dentist has received post-graduate training in the art. Dentists with the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) attend regular continuing education courses focused on creating beautiful, lasting smiles. Our doctors have completed written and oral exams and submitted their cosmetic cases for evaluation by a board of seasoned professionals to earn their status from the AACD. For example, Dr. Debra Gray King is an Accredited Fellow (the highest level of achievement recognized by the AACD) which requires dentists to submit 50 perfect cosmetic cases for evaluation.

Not sure if your dentist is a cosmetic dentist or what their credentials are? Ask them! Look at examples of their cosmetic work and the results they are able to achieve. If both their talent and credentials line up you can move forward with the process!
Mistake #6: Not taking action

The biggest mistake you could make in your smile journey is by not having a journey at all. We hear from patients all the time, “I wish I would have done this sooner!” No matter your concerns, our doctors and treatment coordinators are there to help. We understand this is a big decision and investment which is why we don’t take our role lightly.

Don’t waste another day hiding your smile and suppressing your potential! Call today to schedule a consultation (404-994-4509)! Just think, your journey to a healthy, confident smile could begin NOW!