



## **BREAKAGE POLICY**

Teeth move 24 hours a day during orthodontic treatment. For this reason broken appliances, brackets, wires, or bands allow teeth to return to old unfavorable positions. This can lead to extra appointments and extend treatment time. Decay can occur rapidly around a tooth with a loose band or bracket. We strongly desire for treatment to move smoothly and as quickly as possible. Consequently, we take a chronic breakage problem quite seriously.

The policy below outlines and is set up to help educate and assist patients with repeated breakage problems.

1. Once breakage is noticed, please call during normal office hours. While most breakage does not constitute a true emergency, it can delay treatment and promote the decalcification of tooth enamel. We will reschedule your appointment to allow for extra “fix-it” time. Since repairs take longer than a normal adjustment, they will be considered a long appointment and must be completed prior to school being out.
2. If breakage is noted during an appointment time, the patient will be reappointed to complete the repair unless the repair can be completed during the allotted appointment time.
3. Following the first incident of breakage, additional diet counseling (review of diet problems such as eating sticky, chewy foods and the biggest offender-popcorn!) will be conducted by the orthodontic assistant. You may want to pull out the orthodontic information given to you at the time of your banding and review diet restrictions at home. (We won't count this one! We know it takes a while to get used to your appliances!)
4. Following the second and third incidents of breakage, diet and habit (nail biting, pencil chewing, etc.) additional counseling will be conducted.
5. Following the fourth incident of breakage a breakage fee of \$25 per item will be assessed and is payable at the time of the repair.
6. If breakage continues to be a problem, a consult will be scheduled.

We are committed to excellent orthodontic care. Repeated breakage can severely compromise the result you desire and deserve to have.