

UH OH! PROBLEMS WITH YOUR BRACES

There are very few true orthodontic emergencies. Please refer to the text below that outlines a problem that could potentially need immediate attention as opposed to something that can wait to be addressed:

A true “emergency” involves anything causing pain!

- ❖ If you or your child are in pain with anything that cannot be alleviated by the methods below and cannot wait until the next business day, please call our office.

Trauma to the face or teeth – Call your regular dentist.

- ❖ The conditions mentioned below are important but can wait until the next BUSINESS day or possibly UNTIL your next scheduled appointment as long as there is no pain involved:

- Broken or loose bracket (brace)
- Lost tie around bracket
- Loose band around tooth
- Lost or broken retainer
- Lost rubber bands
- Changing an appointment

LOST OR BROKEN RETAINER

- ❖ If it is during office hours please call the office to report. If it is after office hours, please wait until the next business day.



WHAT TO DO IN CASE A PROBLEM OCCURS WHEN OFFICE IS OPEN

- ☒ Call our office to schedule an appointment. Please do not walk in to our office without an appointment as this will increase your wait time.



WHAT TO DO IN CASE A PROBLEM OCCURS WHEN THE OFFICE IS CLOSED

- ☒ Please refer to true **“emergency”** description to determine if after hour call is needed.
- ☒ If you can wait until the next business day, call us then and we will gladly see you.

AT HOME REMEDIES FOR MINOR ORTHODONTIC PROBLEMS

BROKEN OR LOOSE BRACKET

If the bracket can slide or is rotated, it has become loose:



A. If the loose brace is not causing discomfort

It is best leave it in place and call us for an appointment when we reopen. Please be careful and stay away from the area when you are biting or chewing.

B. If the loose bracket has rotated on the wire

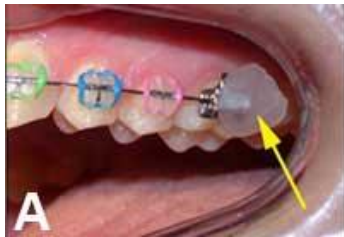
If it's not bothering you, you can leave it as-is. If it bothers you, use your fingers or a pair of tweezers to turn it back into its normal position. Once in place, you may apply wax to secure the loose brace.

C. If the bracket becomes extremely bothersome

You can remove the bracket from the wire with a pair of tweezers or a small unbent paper clip, remove the colored "O" ring from the bracket. You can now remove the bracket from underneath the wire. It is not urgent to have it replaced. If everything else appears to be in place and you have an appointment soon, we will be able to place a new bracket at your upcoming appointment. If it will be more than a few weeks until your next appointment, call us and we schedule a visit sooner to replace to bracket.

POKING WIRE

If the wire is poking your cheeks or lips here are some solutions:



A. Cover it with orthodontic wax for protection.

B. If the wax does not correct the problem, you can cut it with nail clippers that have been sterilized with rubbing alcohol.

C. Other solutions are to push/bend the wire with a pencil eraser or the back of a metal spoon.

Please call our office to inform us of any problem you have. We may have to lengthen your next appointment in order to have time to correct the problem.