



Have an Orthodontic Emergency?

Orthodontic emergencies are rare and most problems can be resolved at home. If you do encounter a situation that you cannot resolve, please call our office for advice or to schedule an appointment.

Quick solutions to Common Problems:

"What can I do if I break a bracket?"

A broken bracket is not an urgent problem. Generally, the bracket remains attached to the wire, but it may slide or rotate on the wire. Orthodontic wax may be applied to the broken bracket to lessen the irritation to the inside of the mouth. Please call the office to schedule a repair during the next business day.

"What if the wire comes loose and irritates my cheek?"

Typically, a loose wire does not need to be repaired immediately. If you are experiencing discomfort from the wire irritating the inside of your mouth, a clean fingernail clipper can be used to cut the wire and remove the broken end. Call the office to schedule a repair.

"How can I prevent cheek & lip irritation from my braces?"

Cheek and lip irritation may last up to 2 weeks following initial placement of braces. You may apply wax or silicone to the offending brackets or wire to smooth the area. Over time, the cheeks and lips will adjust to the new appliances.

"What can I do about sore teeth?"

Soreness of the teeth is normal 1 to 3 days after orthodontic adjustments or initial placement of braces. Ibuprofen (Advil®) or acetaminophen (Tylenol®) may be taken if treatment is needed for the pain. Call your health care provider for dosing instructions.

"What can I do if I have an injury involving my teeth?"

When there is a traumatic injury to the teeth and braces, apply ice immediately to the area. You should contact your general dentist to assess the damage and decide whether or not you should be seen by the Orthodontist.