

Emergency Guidelines

EMERGENCY GUIDELINES

Listed below are guidelines to assist you in resolving orthodontic issues. Please save this form and post it in an accessible location such as on your refrigerator.



1. Most orthodontic emergencies are "annoyances" for patients, and it is rare that an orthodontic appliance difficulty requires immediate attention by an orthodontist.
2. Don't panic when a problem arises. Most difficulties can be resolved over the telephone.
3. If you have any discomfort after a visit, you may take aspirin, ibuprofen, or Tylenol (whichever you normally take for a headache).
4. Wax is helpful. Using wax can relieve and make irritating areas in your mouth more comfortable. If there's a wire poking inside your mouth, gently tuck it back into place with a blunt object and cover it with a piece of wax until you make it into the office. When using wax, the drier the bracket, the better the wax sticks.
5. If you cannot secure the wire with wax, you may use a nail clipper to cut the wire until you are seen in the office.
6. If a wire has caused irritation to your cheek, you should rinse with salt water several times a day until your cheek has healed.
7. If you break a bracket or your appliance becomes loose or damaged, please contact the office. If it is outside of normal office hours and it is not bothering the patient, please leave a message so our office staff can schedule an appointment for repair.
8. The office number is covered by an answering machine during non-office hours. If your concern is a true orthodontic emergency and you are unable to wait for normal office hours, follow the instructions on the answering machine to contact the clinical staff member who is on emergency call.
9. When in doubt, please call the office. We are always available when it comes to the care of our patients!