

TROUBLESHOOTING

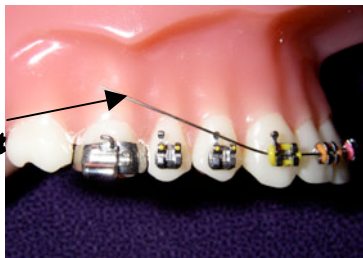
OCCASIONALLY, DURING BRACES TREATMENT, YOU MAY EXPERIENCE UNFORSEEN DIFFICULTIES. THIS LEAFLET IS DESIGNED TO AID YOU IN DIAGNOSING AND DEALING WITH THESE PROBLEMS, IF THEY OCCUR.

DISCOMFORT

Your braces are generally not sore the day that they are put on, however please expect some discomfort over the following few days. This discomfort should be managed in the same way as you might manage a headache. Consult your pharmacist for advice.

MY WIRE IS STICKING OUT

In some cases, especially in early light wires you may notice your wire feels very long on one side or is poking into your cheek. The most likely cause of this is that the wire has slid around or that you have lost some elastics (see picture)

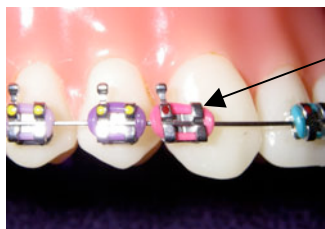


Wire is sticking out

If this occurs, please call us and arrange an appointment ASAP because not only is this breakage annoying you, but your wire is not working to straighten your teeth and is therefore slowing your treatment down!

I'VE GOT A LOOSE SQUARE

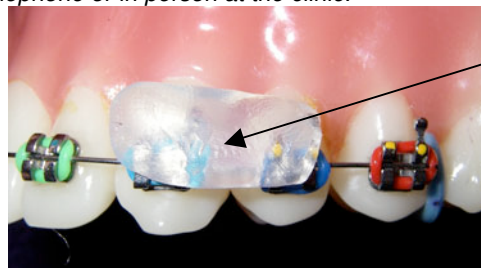
Biting down into hard or sticky foods may cause a metal square (correct name bond) to become dislodged from your tooth. This means that the tooth is now adrift and is no longer being straightened, therefore slowing your entire treatment down. Similar habits such as nail or pen chewing may also cause this problem. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO NOTIFY US ASAP if this occurs, even if your appointment is within the next 24 hours. Your normal appointment does not allow enough time for such a repair so your appointment will need rescheduling to include adequate time.



Bond is no longer glued to the tooth

RUBBING

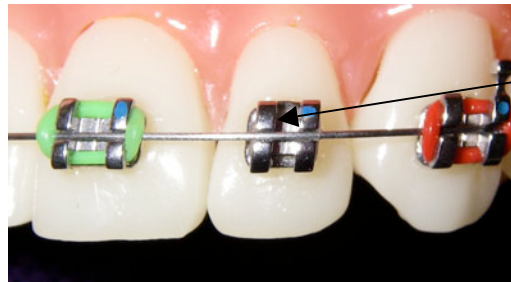
For the first week or two, your braces will feel bulky and rough on the inside of your cheeks and lips. Your body will adjust to this, however initially this may cause some rubbing or ulceration inside your mouth. Use the silicone wax provided by applying a pea sized amount over the troublesome area of your braces (see picture below). DRY THE AREA WELL prior to application to ensure the wax adheres properly. If, during treatment you require more wax please arrange some via telephone or in person at the clinic.



Apply wax over irritating areas

ONE OF MY COLOURED (ALASTICS) HAS COME OFF

The little colours or "O-Rings" (correctly named Elastics) which hold the wire onto your teeth aren't just fashion accessories. They hold the wire into each bond, which then in turn straightens the tooth. If an Elastic is missing, then that tooth is adrift from the wire and is not being straightened. Please look closely at every tooth when you brush and if you are missing any of these elastics call us ASAP to have them replaced.



Coloured ring is missing

MY BACK BAND IS LOOSE

This is not very common, however eating hard or very cold items (such as ice blocks) may crack the cement holding your back bands in position. This means that your back tooth is not being straightened and worse still the area underneath the band will now attract food and plaque and will cause decay if left for long periods un-repaired. The same rules apply to this as with a broken bond. Re-cementing a loose band takes additional time to fix, so please advise us of this breakage in advance to allow us to allocate adequate time for such a repair.



Band is loose and slipping from the tooth