

FIXED (BONDED) RETAINERS

Fixed retainers are usually placed only on the lower six front teeth. In most instances, placing an upper fixed retainer is not possible since the lower teeth bite into the area where the permanent retainer needs to be cemented. Upper fixed retainers are usually limited to those who had a space between the two upper front teeth prior to orthodontic treatment.

After the braces are removed, we continue to see you for one year. Follow-up visits over the next year will be scheduled at the following intervals:

1. 2 months after brace removal
 2. 3 months after 1st retainer appointment
 3. 6 months after 2nd retainer appointment
- *Scheduled visits may vary depending on individual needs.
*3 free visits in the 1st year are included in the price of the braces charge.
Additional visits will incur a check-up fee charge**

If you are receiving a **replacement retainer today**, we will see you as you feel necessary. There will be a charge for each check-up appointment.

Advantages of Fixed Retainers

1. They hold the teeth in position full-time since they are not removable.
2. Cannot be lost unlike removable retainers.
3. Do not interfere with playing musical instruments, sports, speech or appearance.

Disadvantages of Fixed Retainers

1. Require careful flossing daily with floss threaders or Superfloss to reach the gums below the permanent retainer to prevent plaque and tarter buildup which can lead to cavities, gingivitis and periodontal disease.
2. Require regular observation and maintenance to ensure that all bonded areas are intact and that there is no gingival infection, decalcification or tooth decay. These observation appointments should be performed by the orthodontist, and general dentist at your routine cleanings every 6 months.
3. Hard foods should be avoided that are likely to break or loosen the retainer (apples, ice, corn on the cob etc.). Chewing on fingernails or other foreign objects should also be avoided to prevent breakage.

PATIENTS SHOULD CHECK THEIR RETAINERS DAILY WHEN FLOSSING TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO AREAS WHERE THE WIRE IS DETACHED FROM THE TEETH. ANY TOOTH THAT IS NO LONGER BONDED TO THE WIRE IS AT RISK FOR BECOMING CROOKED. DR. DURRETT SHOULD BE NOTIFIED WITHIN A COUPLE OF DAYS SO SHE CAN RECEMENT THE RETAINER.

Any repairs or replacements for broken or lost fixed retainer ("retainers") will incur additional charges at fees applicable at that time.

I understand the risks and responsibilities that come with having fixed retainers

Patient/Parent signature

Date

Print Patient Name

Date of Birth