

Functional Brace Guide

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This brace is an extremely important part of your treatment!
Please do not stop wearing this appliance until you are told to do so.

Advice for Functional Braces

Your brace is designed to make you bite with your lower jaw forwards, and it will therefore take some time for the muscles to get used to it. This brace is called 'functional' because it uses your own jaw muscles to correct the teeth and improve your profile. It is usual to have a functional appliance for approximately 9-12 months.

Your new brace will feel strange at first, and it may be difficult to speak clearly for the first few days. Do not worry, any discomfort and speech difficulties will wear off providing you persevere and wear the brace as instructed.

This advice must be followed to ensure that your orthodontic treatment is successful. If you have any problems which are not answered below, please do not hesitate to ask.

WHEN TO WEAR IT- Your brace must be worn **all the time** including meals. This means all day and all night whether you are at home, at school, or in bed. Teeth only move under continuous pressure so if you keep taking your brace out it is unlikely to work!

SPORTS- We recommend you take your brace out for contact sport, swimming and skiing. When not in your mouth, the brace should be kept in a brace box or similar container, **not in a tissue** or loose in your pocket.

CLEANING- The brace and your teeth must be kept clean. Rinse the brace after meals and brush it with a toothbrush and toothpaste when you clean your teeth. Always put the brace back in immediately after cleaning or rinsing.

DAMAGED BRACES- Orthodontic braces are fragile and must always be handled with care. If there are problems with your brace please telephone to make an appointment to have the brace repaired or adjusted. Try not to leave your brace out completely as the teeth may move back and the brace will not fit well. Remember, replacement braces are not provided free of charge.

COST OF REPAIR- If the brace is lost or damaged beyond repair, you will be charged for a replacement. So remember: **it pays to take care of your brace; the safest place, for your brace is in your mouth!**

APPOINTMENTS- It is essential you attend at regular intervals to have the brace checked and adjusted. Missed appointments will mean that your treatment takes longer than necessary and unwanted tooth movements may occur.

PROBLEMS- If you are having problems, advice is available on our Troubleshooting page on:

www.cheltenhamorthodontics.co.uk

Or contact us between 9.00am and 5.00pm on 01242 – 248788

Removable Brace Oral Health Pack – Contents and Instructions

Brace Box- For the storage of your removable brace when the brace is not being worn (i.e. during sports). The NHS will charge you for replacement braces – so don't lose it!

Brace Cleaner- Cleaning agent for your brace that does not affect the metal where some other cleaners may.

Clean your brace with your toothbrush and toothpaste before you put it in the brace cleaner.

This is so that the brace cleaner has access to all the areas of your brace and it can remove the bacteria that you cannot see.

Soak for 5-10 minutes.

Brace Relief Wax- Your mouth is very perceptive and your new brace may rub your lips and cheeks. If this happens you will be able to easily identify where the rub is occurs. The Brace Relief Wax acts as a cushion while your mouth gets used to your brace.

Dry the teeth/brace in the area of the rub with tissue/kitchen roll.

Pinch off some wax.

Mould around teeth and brace.

Replace as necessary.

All items are available at Cheltenham Orthodontics.

CLEAN TEETH and NO BREAKAGES
means YOUR treatment ends quicker.