



RETENTION

Removing your braces signals the start of the retention phase of your orthodontic care. Please remember that this phase is just as important as the active movement phase in determining the ultimate success of your treatment. Once the teeth have been moved into their desired position, a period of time is needed to stabilize them so that the surrounding bone and soft tissue can conform to your new dental development.

Your supervised retention phase is 12 months. We will start by having a conference with you and your family when your braces are removed to discuss the retainers that you will wear. By closely following the schedule that Dr. Razdolsky recommends, you can control the stability of your result. At the time your braces are removed, you will receive instructions for taking care of your retainers. Dr. Razdolsky recommends that retainers are worn through one's late twenties to early thirties. Once the supervised period of retention is completed, we will see patients at their convenience. There is a small charge for these post-retention visits.

Your **initial set of retainers** is included in the original treatment fee. If the retainers are lost or broken, there will be an additional expense to replace them. Although there will be a charge, it is a relatively inexpensive way to protect the investment you have made in your orthodontic care.

Concerning the permanence of your correction, it has been the experience of orthodontists all over the world that through the years, about ninety-five percent of the correction will be retained. If we could put your teeth up on a shelf and let them stay there, they would remain perfectly straight. Fortunately, however they are there to be used! Due to the chewing forces that are at work in your mouth, or unexpected growth during adolescence, there will be some adaptive changes that will occur as function continues. This readjustment is not a failure of your correction but nature's changes that we learn to expect, just as we learn to expect changes in other portions of our bodies, as we grow older.

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