

Traditional Wire or 'Hawley' Retainers



(UPPER Shown)

**Description**

When using this dental retainer, a metal wire shows, unlike the “Essix” retainer (which is clear or 'Invisible'). When one smiles others are able to see the dental retainer wire; retainers with the wire across the front teeth are used mostly to keep teeth from shifting, but can also be used to move teeth; That type is called a 'Hawley with Finger Springs'. Finger Springs are small clasps that add pressure to one side of the tooth, "moving" it along the retaining wire.

Retainers are used solely to retain/hold current tooth position. They're not designed to move teeth, only the Invisible Aligners are designed to move teeth.

For tooth alignment you may be interested in our “ITA-1201 ClearAligner” dental appliance.

Research shows that without long-term use of a retainer, teeth show a natural tendency to shift or drift away from their straightened position.

We save customers hundreds of dollars by sending them a “Teeth Impression Kit” - avoiding another "TRIP TO THE DENTIST". The cost of these retainers at a dental office ranges from \$400 to \$700 and usually includes a full examination.

Retainers do not move teeth; they simply keep teeth in their current position & eliminate further crowding. By wearing these for just 30 minutes per day, it will prevent teeth from rotation or migration. These retainers are made of the same materials that dentists use and manufactured by the same lab as well.

- Have you lost or broken your retainers?
- Has one of your front teeth slightly moved?
- Do you grind your teeth at night?
- Want your teeth PROFESSIONALLY whitened?
- Maybe your missing a tooth or have a small gap between your teeth you would like to close?

When you've completed the moving (aligning) part of your treatment, you're ready for the holding (retaining) part! The next few months will be a critical part of your treatment! Your Invisible OR 'Hawley' Retainer is designed to hold your teeth in their corrected position until the bone surrounding the roots of the moved teeth "fill in" and make them "solid." If we do not retain (or hold) following orthodontic tooth movement, the teeth will move back to their old positions and all that time wearing braces would be wasted.

If your retainer is going to do the job, here are the things you must do:

Wear your retainer as instructed!

Lifetime: As an insurance policy it is recommended to wear your retainer at night indefinitely (or more

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importantly as your doctor instructs). Simply use your retainer as a template and try it in. If it feels tight, wear it for the night.

Remove your retainer from the back hook - not from the front.

### Care

How to Clean Retainers:

One of the biggest challenges to wearing retainers (and even Invisalign-type aligner trays) is keeping the retainers and aligners clean. Bacteria build up on the retainers and aligners the same way that they build up on teeth. If you don't keep your aligners clean, very quickly you will notice that they smell bad and have an ugly layer of white gunky film. If you don't clean your retainers or aligners properly, the film will harden and become almost impossible to remove. This is true for all types of retainers (plastic and wire Hawley retainers, clear Essix retainers, aligner trays, snoring and bruxism devices, etc).

How can you keep your retainers clean and odor free? There are several ways.

Always rinse your retainers in warm water after taking them out of your mouth. Before putting your retainer into a retainer case, give it a quick rinse. This will wash away some of the surface bacteria. Do not use an anti-bacterial hand wipe on your retainer. The chemicals in antibacterial hand wipes may be toxic if they are put into your mouth!

The easiest method for cleaning retainers is the good old-fashioned toothbrush. If you have a plastic and wire Hawley retainer, you can brush it with toothpaste on a soft toothbrush. However, this method is not recommended for Invisalign-type clear aligner trays or clear Essix retainers (which look like aligner trays). The toothpaste can scratch the clear plastic and over time, your retainers will not be "invisible" anymore. Use listerine instead.

Some people recommend soaking retainers in a weak solution of hydrogen peroxide diluted with water, or even an alcohol-based mouthwash. This helps to kill germs, but doesn't address the white gunky build-up. In addition, these harsh chemicals can damage the surface of the plastic over time, turning it yellow. Some people use denture cleaning tablets to clean their retainers or aligners. This will seem to work at first, but over time the harsh chemicals in the denture tablets will turn your retainer yellow. This is because the denture tablets are strongly formulated to clean false teeth, not retainers.

Take care of your retainers: Clean with soap, water and Q-Tips. Efferdent® works fine, too. Don't brush the appliance with toothpaste; it dulls the brilliance. Keep them away from pets - they love to chew on them. Don't use hot water or place near hot surfaces; this can distort the shape of your retainer. You may remove your retainer while swimming in a lake or ocean.

No flipping: Avoid flipping the retainer with your tongue or chewing on your retainer. This can cause damage to your teeth and retainer.

NEVER wrap the retainer in a napkin or tissue, as they may be thrown away. Always store the retainer in its case (not your pocket).

Speech: You may notice a difference in your speech at first. However, in 2 or 3 days, your speech will become normal. The plastic taste of the new appliance will soon disappear. Return to your family dentist for an examination and cleaning. Keep your appointments: You will have fewer office visits but checking your retainer is still very important. Always remember to bring your retainer to every appointment.

If you lose or break a retainer, please call us immediately. The teeth will move if the retainers are not worn as instructed. We will keep your models on file for some time.

### Retainers After Braces

Purpose: The dental retainers are important to hold the teeth after braces are removed. New bone and supporting fibers of the teeth are being completed for the new tooth positions.

Time of Use: Mouth retainers are usually worn until eruption of the permanent teeth makes wearing a mouth retainer difficult. You will start with full time wear and phase slowly into night time wear as a dental night guard. Experiencing tightness when placing the retainers after leaving them out for a period of time is an indication of how often you need to wear the retainers.

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Care: To keep your dental retainers fresh and clean, scrub them before putting them in their case. Use warm or cool water and soap. Hot water will warp the retainers. Limit the soaking time to 15 minutes if you choose to use Efferdent. We have found that over time Efferdent weakens the solder joints. Brushing with Listerine will decrease bacteria and give your retainer a fresh taste.

Adapting: Most people get used to mouth retainers within a day or two. At first there may be a new plastic taste and you may have extra saliva in your mouth. Reading aloud the first day will help your speech adapt. The habit of flipping a dental retainer in and out with your tongue will loosen the dental retainer and may break the wires and/or plastic.

Visits: Upon completion of early phase orthodontic treatment, you will be checked periodically with visits to the dentist. Bring the dental retainer to your visits. If the dental retainer does not fit or if there is any tissue soreness, call us for an appointment as soon as possible.

Breakage/Loss: The common habit of flipping the retainers in and out with your tongue will make it become loose and can introduce stresses in the plastic or wires which will result in breakage.

Relapse: Failure to use dental retainers regularly may result in unfavorable tooth movement. If brought to your dentist's attention early it may be corrected with another retainer. If not caught early, retreatment with braces may be necessary.

### Dental Braces Care Post-Treatment

After the braces have been removed, a retainer is used to keep the teeth in their new position. Some patients may need orthodontic surgery, such as a fibrotomy, to prepare their teeth for retainer use. A fibrotomy is designed to remove the gingival fibers around a tooth. This procedure usually reduces the tendency for relapse of the tooth.

Retainers are usually worn by patients once treatment with the braces is complete. Retainers maintain the teeth while the surrounding bone reforms around them. Retainers are generally worn full-time for a short period, perhaps 6 months to a year, and then worn periodically, typically nightly during sleep, for as long as the orthodontist recommends. If a patient does not wear the retainer as recommended, the teeth might move back to their original position.

While it is possible for the teeth to stay aligned without regular retainer wear, there are many reasons teeth will crowd as a person ages. For this reason, many orthodontists recommend periodic retainer wear for many years, or indefinitely, after orthodontic treatment. The three most popular retainers used in dental braces care are the Hawley retainer, the Essix retainer and a Fixed retainer.

Hawley Retainer – a Hawley retainer is made of metal hooks that surround the teeth and keeps them in place. It is anchored in a specially molded, sometimes brightly colored acrylic plate shaped to fit the patient's palate, or floor of the mouth. Top and bottom retainers are usually made as necessary.

Essix Retainer - an Essix retainer is similar in appearance to Invisalign trays. It is a clear plastic tray form-fitted over the entire arch of teeth and can be produced from a mold and stays in place by suction. Essix retainers, if worn 24 hours per day, do not allow the upper and lower teeth to touch because plastic covers the chewing surfaces of the teeth. Some orthodontists feel that it is important for the top and bottom chewing surfaces to meet to allow a "favorable settling" to occur. Essix retainers are less expensive, more aesthetic and easier to wear than Hawley retainers.

Most removable retainers come with a retainer case to protect them. During the first few days of retainer use, many people will have extra saliva in their mouth. This is natural and is due to the presence of a new object inside the mouth and consequent stimulation of the saliva glands. It may be difficult to speak for a while after getting a retainer, but this speech difficulty should go away over time as one gets used to wearing it.

An entirely different category of orthodontic retainers, by definition not removable, are bonded or Fixed Retainers.

A Fixed retainer consists of a wire permanently bonded to the tongue-side of the lower incisor teeth, although other teeth are occasionally treated in similar fashion. Some doctors prescribe fixed retainers regularly, especially when a significant change has occurred in the bite and there is a high risk for reversal.