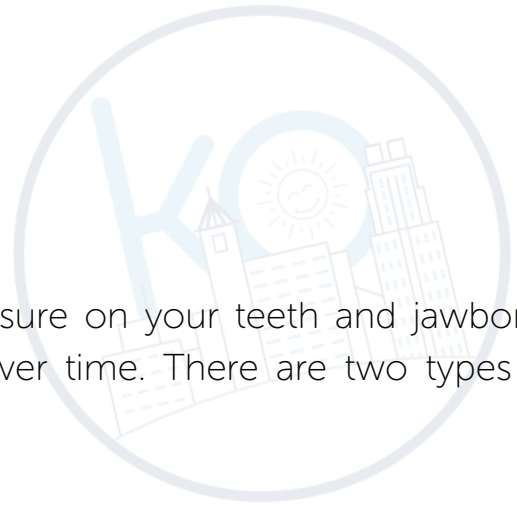


What are BRACES



Braces are orthodontic tools that apply gentle pressure on your teeth and jawbone, gradually moving them into the correct position over time. There are two types of braces used in our office - **Metal** and **Clear**

WHAT MAKES UP BRACES

All braces have 3 common components: the bracket, the archwire and the o-ring.

The brackets are small squares made of either stainless steel or tooth colored materials. The brackets primary function is a handle on the tooth.

The archwire is a slender, elongated wire that connects to the brackets and serves as a track for shifting your teeth. We use thinner, more flexible wires in the beginning and gradually move to thicker, more rigid wires.

The o-ring refers to the elastic ties that connect the archwire to the bracket. This is where you can get creative and have fun because you can choose the color(s) of the elastic ties you want to add a pop of color to your braces.

HOW DO THEY WORK

Braces work by exerting constant pressure on teeth and jaws to change their position over time. You will visit the clinic every 4-8 weeks for the doctor to check on the progress of your teeth and to adjust your braces. The archwire is adjusted or changed to increase pressure on the teeth so they continue moving into their desired position.

WHAT TO EXPECT

For most patients the treatment phase is broken into 3 steps:

- 1.) Level and align - the first stage is to move your teeth so they sit side by side. You may also see spaces opening, but do not worry! We will close all space over time.
- 2.) Bite issues - the second step is adjusting the braces to correct any bite problems - overbite, underbite or crossbite. For patients with more spacing issues this is when we will close spaces. This is when you will also start rubberbands if needed.
- 3.) Fine tuning - during the final months of treatment we will complete any fine tuning and tidying up so all teeth are sitting in the best position before we remove braces

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SHORTEN TREATMENT TIME

- Follow orthodontists instructions
- Wear rubberbands as directed, if needed
- Avoid breakage!
- Excellent hygiene
- Come to your regular appointments



Orthodontic emergencies are rare! If you have any after-hours concerns regarding comfort, please call our office number and follow the prompts to leave a detailed message with our on-call clinical assistant. You will be promptly contacted regarding your concern. For non-urgent needs/questions, send an email to admin@keyserortho.com - emails will be responded to on the next business day.

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