

## LOSING YOUR DENTAL APPLIANCE

In spite of all the pleading which I make with my patients there are always some who do not hear the words, or in some unconscious moment leave all caution to the wind and forget them..



*Phil Macavity says "Just Floss 'Em"*

Never, I repeat never, leave your dental prosthetic device unattended. Always place it somewhere safe that is special where no one else will inadvertently stumble across it, including your pets. There are some common ways in which dental devices just disappear, and the first is in the restaurant. I cannot begin to tell you how many patients make the mistake of removing their appliance and surreptitiously wrap it in tissue or a paper napkin. Quicker than you can say "Just Floss 'Em", the waiter will whip it away from right under your nose. The next call I receive is from an outraged or apoplectic client, whose arms are reeking from lemon skins and bacon fat, who will, after dropping their suit off at the cleaners, see me to have their expensive device remade. I can picture them rooting around the trash bin in the back alley, flash light in hand and fuming with anger. I have never known anyone who found it again. It vanishes!

Another favorite trick is to ease the drive by popping your orthodontic appliance on the dashboard. Once out of the mouth you burst into full song and gaily take a corner at full tilt and with the window open, my hard work goes flying and bouncing, cracking and chipping across the asphalt. On any other occasion, and if it was the worst cassette tape in the world, it would wind up in the door bucket, but Murphy's Law must apply to dentistry, and it never fails to launch my work into oblivion.

The third, and most thorough manner in which hours of carefully crafted work is destroyed in a twinkling, is out of the love your pets feel for you, and the inexplicable pheromonic stimulus they have to devour, gnaw or chew my work to smithereens, just because it stinks of your saliva. It is entirely predictable, and night guards are the worst targets. Your darling pets adore you, and the chance to chew something you treasure that has that special smell is a treat of inestimable grandeur. If there is any chance that you will toss a bite guard or retainer out of the mouth during the night, your pets will have to be put out of the room. One more thing, do not think that cats are above destroying your bleaching trays, they love 'em. After five to ten minutes of diddle diddling, and after it is all hairy and covered with dead spiders they will puncture it as easily as a little rabbit's neck.

Finally, you can not rely on your cleaning maid to appreciate the value of your dental appliances. So be careful, we want you to be happy with your teeth. . - Thank you.

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