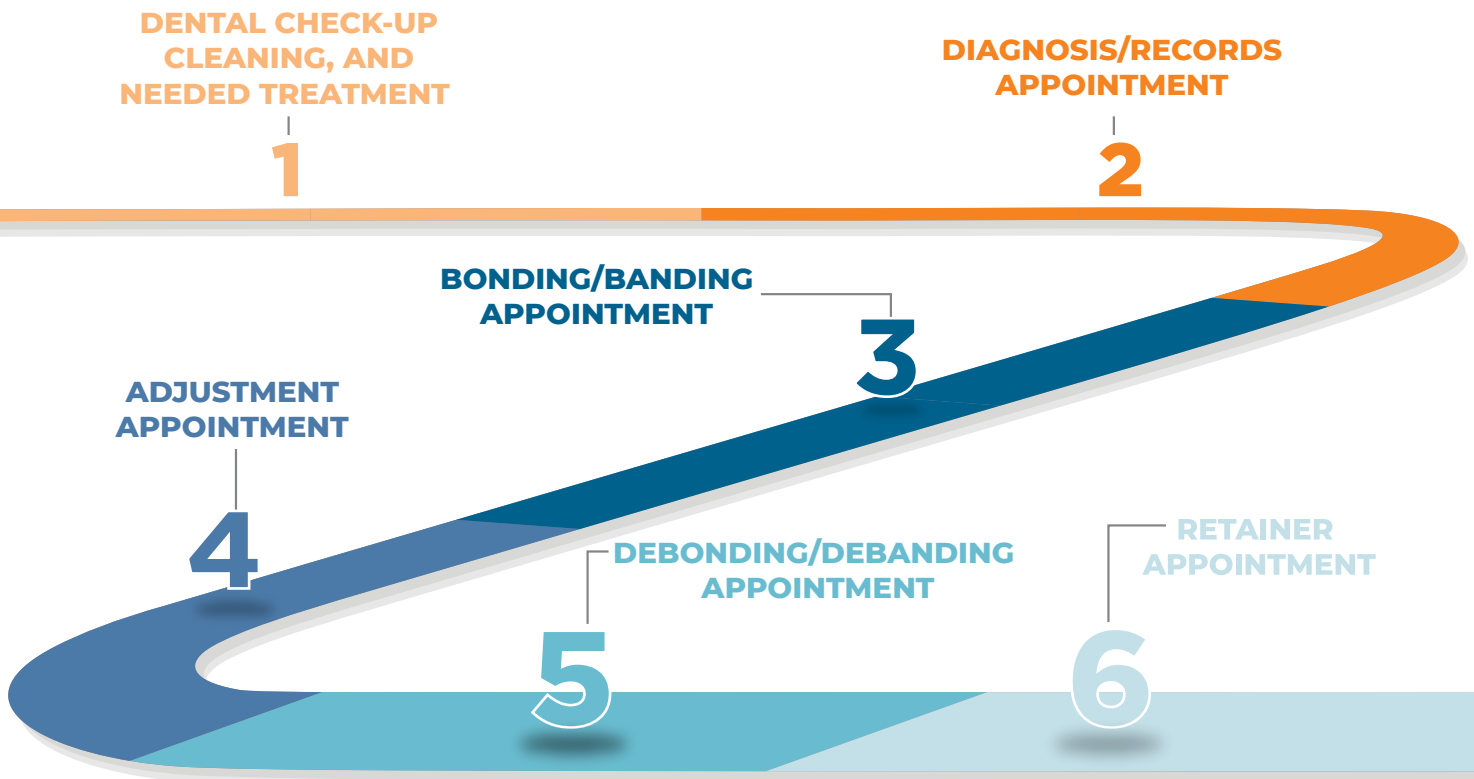


# APPOINTMENT TIMELINE

It is our commitment to provide you with the most cost-effective and high-quality orthodontic care. In order to accomplish this goal, your visits will be set up in the order below. It is important that each visit be completed before moving on to the next one.



**DENTAL CHECK-UP, CLEANING, AND NEEDED TREATMENT:** *It is very important that your gums, teeth, and supporting bone be given a clean bill of health before your braces are placed. An appointment with your general dentist may be prescribed. Patients who need additional care may be referred to specialists trained to provide services not generally offered in the general dental practice. If needed, we can arrange a visit in one of our offices for your convenience.*

**DIAGNOSIS/RECORDS APPOINTMENT:** *After your pre-treatment visits have been completed, your orthodontist will review the results to form a diagnosis and then explain how your teeth will move while in braces. Your orthodontist will also take records (orthodontic X-rays, photos and impressions) to help the orthodontist prepare a personalized treatment plan for you. If records are not taken on the premises, you may be asked to go to an imaging lab that specializes in taking orthodontic records. Finally, a registered dental assistant may place small "rubber bands" called separators between your first molars. Separators are designed to create space around the molars, which makes placing the bands more comfortable for you.*

**BONDING/BANDING APPOINTMENT:** *Your big day! During this visit, the orthodontist and staff will place bands on your first molars, which will eventually serve to "anchor" all of your braces and will place the small brackets on your teeth using special adhesives. An arch wire is placed in each bracket to connect all your teeth to the first molar bands.*

**ADJUSTMENT APPOINTMENT:** *These routine visits are needed to "activate" your braces. During these visits, your orthodontist will monitor your progress and offer home care instructions. These visits are scheduled at 4- to 6-week intervals.*

**DEBONDING/DEBANDING APPOINTMENT:** *Congratulations! You're the proud owner of a great smile! During this visit, brackets and bands are removed, retainer impressions and final records are taken, and your teeth are polished.*

**RETAINER APPOINTMENT:** *When your braces are removed, it is necessary to wear retainers fulltime (24/7 unless eating or brushing) until your Orthodontist instructs you otherwise. A retainer check appointment will be made for 3 months post braces removal to ensure the retainers are fitting well and holding the teeth in the proper positions. If you lose or break your retainer, it is very important that you call our office immediately so we can bring you in to make a new one. Teeth can move quickly in a very short amount of time. There is an additional cost for replacement retainers.*