

Dr. Wilson answers the most common question:  
*“What is your treatment philosophy?”*

One of the most common questions I receive as an orthodontist is “What is your treatment philosophy?” For most people, they are asking whether I prefer to extract teeth or develop space for all permanent teeth through the use of an expander. And putting it simply, my answer is “It depends on the individual.” I believe every patient is a unique individual and deserves a treatment plan which best fits the patient’s needs. There is not a cookbook for orthodontics nor do I believe a “one size fits all” treatment approach is appropriate. Extracting teeth or expanding when it is not necessary can have detrimental consequences on the facial profile and esthetics.

The decision process to determine if teeth need to be extracted or not can be quite complex. There are many factors which are considered when developing a treatment plan and include: the amount of crowding

or space for the teeth, position of the teeth within the jaws, health and thickness of the periodontal tissue (gums), position of the jaws, future growth potential of the jaws, facial profile including lip, chin, and nose position. To aid in the diagnostic decision making process, records are taken at the initial appointment which include a clinical exam, photos of the teeth and face, and x-rays.



Overall, I like to tell people I am a dentist first and my primary goal is complete oral health for each patient. The good news is for most people, extraction of permanent teeth is not needed as a part of orthodontic treatment.

At Wilson Orthodontics we don’t limit our treatment to one philosophy, we develop treatment plans tailored to the specific needs of each individual patient.

*Dustin C. Wilson D.D.S., M.S.*