

How to handle “blocking expansion screws”

We are very sorry that you have problems with one of our expansion screws.

Every expansion screw manufactured by Lewa-Dental passes through several quality inspection instances. It is our particular matter, to produce high quality products that are 100% reliable and meet all requirements of our customers. It is nearly impossible, that a screw that leaves our factory, does not work properly or that it is not possible to open.

In some very rare cases (2-4 in a year), we get complaints that the finished appliance is hard to open, or that the screw blocks or locks. We have inspected a lot of these complaints in the past 30 years and get every time the same result.

If the screws were removed out of the acrylic, they work all right. It always looks that the problems are caused through the acrylic.

When scattering the plates, the ratio of liquid and powder is created rather randomly, the temperature and pressure during polymerization are not 100% reproducible. Due to a random and unfortunate combination of these parameters, the acrylic base may shrink excessively and become too hard in seldom cases. The immediate result can be a very strong pressure and clamping effect on the free threads protruding out of the screw body. This makes activation more difficult, the screw is hard to open or blocks the device completely.

We have known about this effect for a long time, but we cannot reproduce the causes.

Troubleshooting with simple means

However, the affected devices can be repaired on a simple way:
It is usually sufficient to place the apparatus in boiling water for about 1 minute.
This loosens the tensions in the plastic and softens the material somewhat.

In addition, the threaded spindle can be moistened with a drop of olive oil or, even better, with *Ballistol-Oil* (non-toxic and approved for use in the food industry).

