

# Message Boards 101



## Anatomy of a Dentaltown.com Message Board

The message boards of Dentaltown.com are invaluable because they allow you to view clinical cases and get honest feedback to questions in a safe environment. You can post cases you need help with, ask advice on procedures, or offer help to others. In an environment restricted to those trying to better themselves within the dental profession, you can learn from dentistry's legends and those at the top in their field, as well as commiserate with others who might be having the same challenges as you. And it's not all shoptalk: The Dentaltown.com message boards are known for their good-humored members having fun as well. Explore a little, we promise you'll get a good education and a good laugh.

**Username:** Let people know who you are with your username. You can be literal by using your initials or name, or have some fun with it. Some of our favorites: super2th, jawbreaker and drwho.

**Avatar:** This is an image that represents your online persona. It's important to give your virtual personality a face so people can imagine who they are talking with. If you're shy, upload a graphic instead.

**Contact, Subscribe, Block:** Not only can you subscribe to specific threads, you can subscribe to specific Townies. If you find yourself really enjoying what Dr. So-and-so has to say, you can subscribe to her and whenever she posts you will be notified by e-mail. On the other hand, if there are Townies you just don't jibe with, don't get frustrated, we've created a function that allows you to block them. It's anonymous too.

**Signature:** To further set yourself apart from the Dentaltown masses, create a custom signature and furnish it with photos, Web site links, favorite quotes or, our favorite: shameless self-promotions – the possibilities are endless.



**Subscribe:** The subscribe button is for threads you are really crazy about. Maybe it's a timely issue, or a topic you want to keep up with to get more proficient at. If you subscribe to a message board thread, you will receive e-mail updates whenever there is a new post in the thread.

**Create New:** This button allows you to create new topics, cases, polls or videos. Yep, it's pretty much that simple.

**My Profile:** You're unique, just like everyone else. So tell us about it. On your profile, you can update the information you want to share with other members of the Dentaltown community, kind of like your Facebook profile – from where you went to school, to your favorite movies, books and music.

**Today's Active Topics:** There are certain message boards that take off like wildfire. We put these into their own category. So when you log on to Dentaltown.com in the morning (because we know it'll be the first thing you do) you can view the hot-button topics for the day. And just because we focus on dentistry doesn't mean it's all work around here. There is a ton of non-work-related posting going on as well.

**Body:** The most important part of the message board is obviously its content. Here, you can share progressive clinical cases, ask peers for practice management advice or seek recommendations for products. Talk about whatever your heart desires – just remember that we embrace the Golden Rule, and have moderators to ensure everyone follows it.

