



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

AUDIOLOGY

Information Series

Daily Care and Troubleshooting Tips for Hearing Aids

Hearing aids require special care to ensure that they work properly. Your audiologist will show you how to care for and check your hearing aids regularly. Ask how you can obtain a listening tube, a battery tester, a forced air blower, and a drying container.

Perform listening checks. Listen to the hearing aids every day. Using a listening tube, you can listen to the hearing aids to be sure that they sound clear and not weak or scratchy. Your audiologist will teach you how to listen for intermittency and internal feedback.

Check batteries. Batteries should last about 1 or 2 weeks. Using a battery tester, check that the batteries are at full strength so that the hearing aids are working at peak performance. Always keep spare batteries with you. Store them in a cool, dry place. Discard batteries one at a time. Batteries are toxic, so handle them carefully and dispose of them properly.

Clean the hearing aids regularly with a soft, dry cloth. Check for dirt and grime. Earmolds can be removed from the hearing aids and earmolds are dry before joining them to the hearing aids again. Dome-shaped ear pieces used with open fit hearing aids should be cleaned with a dry cloth or special tool provided by your audiologist.

Minimize moisture in the hearing aids. This is important for them to work properly. A hearing aid drying container will help keep moisture from building up inside the hearing aids and will lengthen their life. Be sure to take the batteries out of the hearing aids before placing them in the storage containers.

Avoid feedback. Feedback is the whistling sound that can sometimes be heard from hearing aids. It occurs when amplified sound comes out of the earmold and reenters the microphone. You should not be hearing feedback if the hearing aid is securely seated in your ear. Hearing feedback may suggest that the earmold is too small and needs to be replaced or that there is too much earwax in the ear canal.

Talk to your audiologist about what you should do when you start hearing feedback. Turning down the volume of the hearing aid will cut down on the feedback but may also not allow you to hear important sounds.

Regular visits to your audiologist are important for hearing testing, both to check the performance of your hearing aids and to make necessary adjustments.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

If the hearing aid is weak or dead (no sound)...

- Make sure that the hearing aid is switched on.
- If there is a volume control, make sure it is turned loud enough for you to hear.
- Check the battery—is it working? Is the battery placed with the positive (+) sign facing up?
- Check the receiver opening and any vent openings and make sure they are not blocked with wax or other debris.
- Check to see if the tubing is still connected properly and that it is not bent or twisted.
- Check to see if the microphone opening is not blocked. If it is, use the brush in your tool kit to clean away any debris.

If the hearing aid is distorted or intermittent...

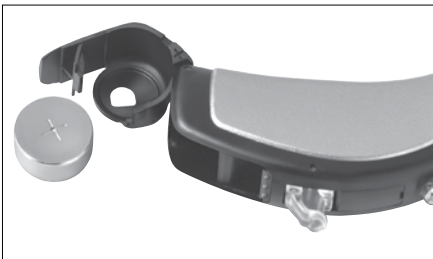
- Check the tubing for moisture. If moisture is present, remove with an air blower.
- Check the tubing for cracks or holes. If you see any, call your audiologist.
- Replace the battery because it may be weak or defective.
- If there are cords connecting to the hearing aid or other hearing assistive device, check for cracks and replace the cord if necessary.

If the hearing aid squeals or whistles (feedback)...

- Check that the volume is not turned up too high.
- Be sure the instrument or earmold is seated snugly in the ear.
- Make sure the microphone is not covered by an object such as a hat, scarf, or collar.
- Have your audiologist or doctor look in your ear canals and check for excessive wax buildup.

BATTERY BASICS

- Remove the tab on the battery before inserting it into the hearing aid.
- Insert the battery correctly with the positive (+) sign up.



- Open the battery door when the hearing aid is not in use. Doing so will extend the life of the battery and allow the hearing aid to dry out.
- Store the batteries in a cool, dry place but not in the refrigerator.
- Batteries are harmful if swallowed.
 - Store batteries away from children and pets.
 - Do not store batteries near medications, as they can be easily mistaken for a pill or tablet.

If a battery is swallowed, contact the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333.

NOTES:



For more information and to view the entire Audiology Information Series library, scan with your mobile device.

For more information about hearing loss, hearing aids, or referral to an ASHA-certified audiologist, contact:



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