

Daily Care and Troubleshooting Tips for Hearing Aids

Hearing aids need special care to ensure that they work properly. Follow these tips to care for them.

Avoid feedback. *Feedback* is the whistling sound that can sometimes be heard from hearing aids. Feedback happens when the hearing aid does not fit well. If you hear feedback, schedule a check-up appointment with your audiologist.

Clean the hearing aids regularly. Wipe or brush away any dirt and grime. Your audiologist may have supplied you with cleaning tools.

Keep your hearing aids dry. This is important for them to work properly. Most hearing aids cannot be exposed to significant moisture.

Perform listening checks. Wearing the device can help you determine if it's working normally or not. How does it sound?

Power Supply Checks

For Disposable Battery Hearing Aids: Your audiologist can give you expectations about your battery life, but you may also have an idea from your own experience. It's a good idea to keep extra batteries with you. After you remove the battery stickers, let the batteries sit for a few minutes to allow air into the battery. Store them in a cool, dry place that is far from pets/children—batteries are toxic. **If a battery is swallowed, contact the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 800-498-8666.**

For Rechargeable Hearing Aids: Be sure that the hearing aids are inserted correctly into the charger. Most hearing aids or chargers will have a light that tells you when they're working. Is your charger plugged in? Did you charge them long enough? Most aids will need a few hours to reach their full charge.

Sometimes, hearing aid problems cannot be fixed at home. Call your audiologist's office right away for a hearing aid check if you are having issues. Here are some questions to help you:

- Does your hearing aid look broken? Does it look like it's in good condition?
- Is the microphone blocked? Try using the brush in the cleaning kit to clean it up.
- Is the sound opening blocked with wax or anything else?
- Did you turn on the hearing aid?

For disposable battery hearing aids: Check the battery—is it inserted correctly?

For rechargeable hearing aids: Did the hearing aid charge long enough? Does it need to be turned on when you take it out of the charger, or does it turn on automatically?

You may also have a manual or user guide for your specific model and hearing aid type. These can be great resources for you!

Your audiologist knows your hearing aids well and may give you additional helpful tips. Be sure to ask the audiologist any questions that you have.

Content contributed by ASHA member Sydney Nance, AuD, CCC-A.



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Notes:

For more information and to view the entire Audiology Information Series library, visit www.asha.org/aud/pei/.

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



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