

Keeping Hearing Aids Clean

Hearing aids are like most products people own, in that they require regular maintenance. The most commonly used types of hearing aids are behind-the-ear (BTE), in-the-ear (ITE) and completely-in-the-canal (CIC). To keep these hearing aids clean:

- Wipe the hearing aid and earmold with a soft, dry cloth, cleaning away any easily removable material that has collected on the plastic shell. Never use water or other liquids for cleaning unless specifically instructed to do so by your audiologist.
- Ensure that no openings in the hearing aid are blocked.
- Check the battery compartment, as moisture frequently accumulates here. Opening the battery compartment during non-use permits moisture to evaporate.¹

Instructions for Cleaning

If the hearing aid has an earmold (like a BTE), follow your audiologist's instructions for cleaning. Instructions generally are to:

- Remove the earmold and connecting tubing.
- Gently wash the earmold and tubing in water. The water should be at approximately body temperature and contain an earmold cleaning solution recommended by an audiologist.
- Rinse the earmold and tubing in fresh water.
- Dry the earmold and tubing with a soft, dry cloth, blowing out any moisture that has accumulated in the holes to ensure unrestricted travel for sound.
- Ensure it is thoroughly dry both inside and outside the earmold and tubing before reassembling the hearing aid.¹

ITE and CIC hearing aids require a modified cleaning strategy. These devices often have earwax filters to prevent earwax from plugging the sound output of the hearing aid. Your audiologist will demonstrate how to clean the wax filter. Instructions for cleaning these devices generally are to:

- Wipe away any residue material on the outside of the hearing aid with a soft cloth. Do not use water or other liquids unless specifically instructed by an audiologist. There are special



CUSTOMER SERVICE: Your audiologist can demonstrate a safe and effective way to clean your hearing aids.

cleaning pads available for this purpose.

- Place a soft cloth on a flat table, hold the hearing aid, and gently move the hearing aid across the soft cloth. (Since ITE and CIC hearing aids are very small, this method is sometimes easier.)

Other recommendations for hearing aids are as follows:

- Clean your hearing aids every day.
- Do not use alcohol for cleaning.
- Do not expose hearing aids to emollients like body lotion.
- Do not expose hearing aids to high temperatures.
- Do not expose hearing aids to water.
- Do not drop hearing aids on hard surfaces.
- Do not trample on or place excessive pressure on hearing aids.
- Do not keep dead batteries.
- Do not use hair care products while wearing hearing aids.
- Do not keep hearing aids turned on when not in use.

With appropriate care, a hearing aid will provide the user with years of reliable and helpful service.^{2,3,4}

REFERENCES

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more info

American Academy of Audiology
www.audiology.org

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
www.asha.org

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
www.agbell.org/

Ball State University Audiology Clinic
www.bsue.edu/csh/spa/audclinic/haid2.html



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