

# Simple Hearing Aid Battery Tips



**BATTERY BASICS:** Your audiologist can tell you which batteries are most appropriate for your hearing aids.

**B**atteries provide the fuel for hearing aids. Most last between five and 40 days, depending on the type of hearing aid, battery capacity, type of battery and how the hearing aid is used. It is important to know basic information about purchasing, maintaining, using and disposing of hearing aid batteries to ensure you receive the best possible performance from your hearing aid. Here is some information about hearing aid batteries, as well as tips for using them.

## Battery Sizes and Colors

- #675, designated blue, is used in behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids.
- #13, designated orange, is for in-the-ear (ITE) hearing aids.
- #312, designated brown, is used with in-the-canal (ITC) hearing aids.
- #10, designated yellow, is used with completely-in-the-canal (CIC) hearing aids.
- #5, the smallest size, is designated red and used with ITCs.

Your audiologist can tell you where to purchase batteries for your hearing aids. He or she may even offer them at the practice. Discount purchasing sources also are available.

Batteries should be kept away from metal objects, such as keys and coins, when stored.

Batteries frequently have a longer shelf life when stored in a cool environment, but don't store them in the refrigerator.

Some hearing aids beep when batteries need to be replaced. Poor hearing aid performance is frequently a sign that your battery needs to be replaced.

A battery tester is an excellent way to check the status of battery life.

## Battery Installation

Wash your hands before and after replacing a battery since oil from the skin can prevent proper battery function.

The positive (+) side of the battery must be matched with the + side marking in the hearing aid.

Look for signs of damaged batteries, such as moisture, leaking or a clogged battery opening.

While wearing the hearing aid, increase and decrease the volume control and listen to the amplified sounds to ensure that the hearing aid is working properly.

## Troubleshooting

If the battery is not operating, the hearing aid may be turned off, the battery may be dead, weak or inserted incorrectly, or the volume may be too low.

If there is intermittent operation, the battery may need to be replaced or there may be poor battery contact.

A buzzing sound may indicate that battery power is low or that the hearing aid is in the telephone (T) position.

If volume sounds low, the battery may need to be replaced.

Batteries contain zinc-carbon, mercuric oxide, silver oxide, nickel, cadmium, lithium, manganese, platinum and other materials that are classified as toxic/hazardous waste.

Hearing aid batteries (and other kinds of batteries) may explode if exposed to intense heat.

Batteries should always be recycled.

Batteries are dangerous if swallowed. If a battery is swallowed, call the Battery Hotline at (202) 625-3333.

Batteries must be kept away from small children and pets.

When disposing of a used battery, wrap it in a tissue so that it will not be enticing to small children.

## REFERENCES:

1. Hear-it, "Use of Batteries." Accessed at [www.he-ar-it.org/page.asp?page=2189](http://www.he-ar-it.org/page.asp?page=2189) on the Web.
2. Canadian Hearing Aid Society, "Care of the Hearing Aids." Accessed at [www.chs.ca/info/ha/7.html](http://www.chs.ca/info/ha/7.html) on the Web.
3. Ball State University Audiology Clinic, "Hearing Aid Batteries." Accessed at [www.bsu.edu/csh/spa/audclinic/haid1.html](http://www.bsu.edu/csh/spa/audclinic/haid1.html) on the Web.

## more info

Audiology Awareness Campaign, [www.audiologyawareness.com/hh-elp/battery.htm](http://www.audiologyawareness.com/hh-elp/battery.htm)

Ball State University, [www.bsu.edu/csh/spa/audclinic/haid1.html](http://www.bsu.edu/csh/spa/audclinic/haid1.html)

Starkey Laboratories Inc., [www.starkey.com/pages/hi/yhiCareBatteries.html](http://www.starkey.com/pages/hi/yhiCareBatteries.html)



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