

Hearing Aids

What Can I Expect from Hearing Aids?

- Listening will be easier and may be less tiring.
- While you will hear best in quiet situations, properly-fitted hearing aids should also help in noise.
- You may hear sounds that you never heard before or have not heard for a long time.
- Others are often more patient and considerate when they see your hearing aids.
- Properly-fitted hearing aids should not be uncomfortable or cause you pain.
- Wearing a hearing aid does not mean you now have normal hearing. It is helping you to hear sounds better.
- Your voice may sound different to you.
- It takes time and effort to adjust to hearing aids. You may need follow-up appointments to have your hearing aids adjusted. Keeping a journal to note down what you do and do not like about your hearing aids can help your audiologist make the correct adjustments.



How Much Do Hearing Aids Cost?

- Within each type of technology, a wide range of options are available. The price of the hearing aids will vary accordingly.
- You may be eligible for financial assistance through government programs or private insurance.
- In addition to the initial price of the hearing aids, there will be ongoing costs for maintenance and batteries.
- Ask your clinic about any fees associated with a trial period, exchange or return.

What Type of Hearing Aids Are the Best For Me?

- The hearing aids that are best for you depend on communication needs, degree of hearing loss, previous use of hearing aids and dexterity.
- Hearing aid styles include ones that sit behind your ear and connect to an earmold in your ear, ones that sit in the opening of the ear canal and ones that fit deep inside the ear canal. Your audiologist will help you decide which style is best for you.
- There is a wide range of digital hearing aid technology. Your audiologist will help you decide which options best suit your hearing and communication requirements.



Tips for Taking Care of Your Hearing Aids

- Take care to avoid dropping your hearing aids – this can damage or loosen the internal components.
- Keep your hearing aids dry. Remove them when showering, bathing, swimming, walking in the rain and washing your hair.
- You may wish to remove your hearing aids when sleeping.
- Open the battery doors of your hearing aids when you are not using them (to prevent battery drain).
- Leave the coloured tabs on the batteries until you are ready to use them. This prolongs the battery shelf life (once the coloured tab is removed, the battery is active and putting the coloured tab back on the battery will not prevent the battery from draining).
- Keep batteries, as well as hearing aids, away from children and pets.
- Regularly clean your hearing aids and earmolds or ear tips, to keep them clear of wax and debris.
- Store your hearing aids in a dry area at room temperature.
- If you use hair products, put your hearing aids on **after** you have applied any.

Troubleshooting for Hearing Aids

Is the hearing aid whistling?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure the hearing aid or earmold is properly fitted into the ear.• Clear the ear of any wax.
Is the hearing aid dead or weak?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure the hearing aid is turned on.• Try a new battery. Make sure the battery is the right size, and is inserted the correct way.• Ensure the battery door of the hearing aid is completely closed.• Clear the hearing aid of any wax. Try changing the wax guard.• Adjust the volume control or program of the hearing aid.
Is the hearing aid uncomfortable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure your hearing aid is fitted properly into the correct ear.• See your audiologist. Wearing your hearing aids should not be painful.

Additional Resources:

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC): Hearing Aids Infographic

Acknowledgments:

The Alberta Association of Audiologists (AAofA) would like to thank the Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (ACSLPA) for sharing this information sheet for use by AAofA.

Original: April 2014
Adapted: May 2022

Getting Help

If you suspect a problem, consult a Registered Audiologist (R.Aud).

To find an audiologist:

- Contact HEALTH LINK - Health Advice 24/7 at 8-1-1
- Visit: www.MyHealth.Alberta.ca
- Find an audiologist on the Alberta Association of Audiologists website, by visiting: <https://www.aaofa.ca/Find-An-Audiologist>

