

# 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 will 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 is not the same as normal hearing.
- Your voice may sound different to you.
- It takes time and effort to adjust to hearing aids. You may need follow-up appointments to adjust to your hearing aids.
- Hearing aids make everything louder, including noises that you may not want to hear.



## How Much Do Hearing Aids Cost?

- Hearing aids are a custom product with technology like a computer and may cost more than you anticipate. 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.
- Clinics should offer a trial period during which time exchanges/returns are possible.

## What Type of Hearing Aids Are 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 hearing aid technology, your audiologist will recommend the best internal components for your hearing loss. There is a wide range of hearing aid technology, including the following:
  - **conventional:** the most basic technology and works best in quiet situations;
  - **programmable:** designed for a variety of listening situations and can be programmed according to your individual listening needs; and
  - **digital:** provides the best listening in background noise and most comfort for loud sounds.



## Tips for Taking Care of Your Hearing Aids

- Do not drop your hearing aids - this may damage or loosen the parts inside.
- Remove your hearing aids for bathing, swimming, heavy rain, hair appointments and sports, because they cannot get wet.
- Remove your hearing aids for sleeping so your ears and your aids get a rest.
- Open the battery doors when you are not wearing the hearing aids.
- Leave the tabs on batteries until you are ready to use them.
- Keep batteries and hearing aids way from children and pets as they may choke or damage them.
- Remove wax from your hearing aids regularly.
- Regularly rotate the controls/switches.
- Routinely wipe the outside of the hearing aids with a soft, dry cloth.
- Do not store your hearing aids on the television, refrigerator, fireplace or other warm place because it may damage internal parts. Avoid storing them in a room containing humidity or moisture, such as the bathroom.
- Put your hearing aids in after using hair spray, as it may clog the microphone opening or damage internal components.

### Additional Resources:

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

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Alberta College of  
Speech-Language Pathologists  
and Audiologists

**Hear. Speak. Connect.**

## TROUBLESHOOTING FOR HEARING AIDS

### Is the hearing aid dead or weak?

- Make sure the hearing aid is turned on.
- Try a new battery. Confirm the size, orientation and that the battery door is fully closed.
- Clean the aid of any wax.
- Adjust the volume control to make it louder.
- If there is a switch on the hearing aid, make sure it is in the correct position

### Is the hearing aid whistling?

- Ensure the hearing aid or earmold is properly in the ear.
- Clear the ear of any wax.
- For behind-the-ear aids, make sure the tubing is not twisted, plugged, hard or cracked, and that it is firmly attached to the hearing aid.

### Is the hearing aid uncomfortable?

- Confirm the aid is in the correct ear (red = right, blue = left).
- Ensure it is properly in the ear – push it firmly into the ear canal with the top of the aid tucked behind the top ridge of the ear.
- While it is normal for the ear to feel plugged, wearing the hearing aid should not be painful.

### Getting Help

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

To find a practitioner:

- Contact HEALTH LINK - Health Advice 24/7 at 8-1-1 or visit: [www.MyHealth.Alberta.ca](http://www.MyHealth.Alberta.ca)
- Enquire at a Public Health Centre or your child's school.
- Find a private practice audiologist:  
- Search 'Audiologist' in the Yellow Pages.