

Extending the Life Of Your Hearing Aid

Hearing aids can be expensive. But purchasing hearing aids is a sound investment in enhancing your quality of life. The benefits provided by these unique instruments make them worth every penny. So what is the best way to ensure this investment lasts you for years?

We have a list of 7 simple steps to help keep your hearing aids working at peak performance.

1. Take Them Out At Night And Open The Casing Or Battery Door

Moisture, sweat and debris can damage or interfere with the function of your hearing aids. This means it is not a good idea to swim, shower or sauna while wearing your hearing aids.

Before you go to bed, open the plastic casing or battery door on your hearing aids. This allows them to dry-out AND prevents wasting the battery life while the hearing aids are not in use.

2. Look Into Using An Aid Drier

Aid driers act like a dehumidifier specifically designed for hearing aids.

Moisture is an enemy to hearing aids and can interfere with their performance. Aid driers are recommended for individuals prone to sweating or who live in a humid climate.

Products like Dri-Aid are designed to hold your hearing aids at night as you sleep so that they are dry and ready to use come morning. Aid driers are a handy product of little expense that helps you to avoid a major repair expense down the road.

3. Clean Your Hearing Aids On A Regular Basis

Debris built up in your hearing aids can cause them to clog or suddenly stop working. The most common type of debris is earwax. A little wax in your ears is good, but too much wax can end up blocking the hearing aid microphones or obstructing the internal mechanics from functioning properly.

Hearing aids can also become clogged from hair products such as hair spray, mousse or gels. Sticky hair products can coat the hearing aid microphones or allow other debris and dirt to attach to them which may degrade their sound quality.

Cleaning your hearing aids is simple. Just gently wipe clean the outer part of your hearing aids with soft cloth. Harsh abrasives like steel wool or scrub brushes are not necessary for cleaning as they can damage components of your hearing aids.

If you have custom molds that fit inside your ears, wipe these down too. This helps avoid wax buildup and blockages.

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4. Know Your Cleaning Tools

If you are given cleaning tools for your hearing aids, learn how to use them correctly. Some tools are designed to clean the outside areas of hearing aids. Others are designed to clear inner areas by gently digging out lodged wax. Most tools appear as a brush, wire pick, or a combination of the two. However, be cautious when using cleaning tools. Too much force can be damaging to the delicate components of hearing aids.

5. Have Your Hearing Aids Checked Every 6 Months

We recommend scheduling an appointment for a hearing aid Clean & Check every 6 months. We provide the service free of charge with our 5 year In-Clinic Warranty. It is one of the best ways to keep your hearing aids at top performance.

Cleaning your hearing aids yourself is helpful. But during Clean & Check appointments, our Hearing Instrument Specialists and Audiologists can clean in areas of your hearing aids that you can't reach even with your cleaning tools, such as in the microphone.

If you wear Behind-The-Ear style hearing aids, the small plastic tubes can become hard, brittle or cracked. Therefore, it is also a good idea to get them changed whenever needed.

6. Remember Hearing Aids Are Delicate

Hearing aids have small, sensitive electronics all housed in a discreet, low profile case. They are not fans of extreme cold or heat as either can cause technical malfunctions. It is also a good idea to keep them away from young children and animals, where they may become a choking hazard, get stepped on or be eaten by pets.

7. Have Your Ears Checked Regularly

Your hearing can change over time. Because of this, it is important to come in for periodic checks and sound adjustments to make sure your hearing aids are working at optimal performance for your hearing needs.

Have your ears retested every few years as an increase in hearing loss may warrant the need to update your hearing aids to ones better suited to your specific hearing needs.

Hearing aid maintenance is fast, easy to do and saves you money on having to pay for repairs or replacements. As long as you take care of them, they will take care of you. Let your hearing aids enhance your life so you can live it to the fullest.