

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.
- Hearing aids make everything louder, including noises that you may not want to hear.
- It takes time and effort to adjust to hearing aids. You may need follow-up appointments to have your hearing aids reprogrammed. Keeping a journal to note down what you do and do not like about your hearing aids can help your audiologist or hearing aid practitioner make the correct adjustments.



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.
- Ask your clinic about any fees associated with a trial period, exchange or return.

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 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, although this is not required.
- Open the battery doors of your hearing aids when you are not using them.
- Leave the coloured tabs on the batteries until you are ready to use them. This prolongs the battery shelf life. (once the sticker/tab is removed, battery is active and putting it back on the battery will not prevent 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.

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. 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.
- Clean the aid of any wax. Try changing the wax guard.
- Adjust the volume control or program of the hearing aid.

Is the hearing aid whistling?

- Ensure the hearing aid or earmold is properly fitted into the ear.
- Clear the ear of any wax.

Is the hearing aid uncomfortable?

- Ensure your hearing aid is fitted properly into the correct ear.
- See your audiologist. Wearing your hearing aids 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
- Enquire at a Public Health Centre or your child's school.
- Search online to find a private practice audiologist in your area.