

According to The Royal National Institute for Deaf People, there are in total 8,945,000 deaf and hard of hearing people in the UK and in total 1.4m wear some type of hearing aid on a daily basis. Hearing aids are innovative micro-computers which could cost up to £1500.00. To ensure you get many years use out of the device, correct care and maintenance should be a priority.

How to care for your hearing aid:

Remove it completely when not in use - This step will ensure that the device does not incur unnecessary wear and tear. After removing the hearing aid, carefully wipe it down with a soft cloth or tissue and remove any earwax which might have accumulated at the end of the aid. Disinfectant wipes are quite handy to use on the surface of both in-the-ear and behind-the-ear instruments and their relevant fittings.

Place it in a safe place - When the hearing aid is removed, place it in a safe place away from children and pets. If possible, store it in an environment which is not affected by extreme temperature extremes – such as near an oven or in direct sunlight.

Avoid exposing the hearing aid to excessive moisture. The obvious things would be to not wear it while showering/bathing or swimming. Also avoid using hair sprays or gels when the hearing aid is in your ear. As components can be affected by moisture within the environment over time (e.g. humidity); consider using what's referred to as a dry aid kit at night which help to prevent moisture build up.

Try to ensure your ears are dry - before you put your hearing aid back in.

Clean and inspect it often - Chances are that your hearing aid came with cleaning instructions. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the particular cleaning process and clean the device often. Be sure to clean the receiver and vent or tubing openings with an appropriate wax removal tool. Be sure to ask for instructions on how to prevent damage to the receiver (loudspeaker component). During the cleaning process check the battery compartment contacts for corrosion or rust which will lead to a breakdown.

Replace the batteries as soon as needed - When the battery runs out, avoid leaving it in the device for too long. Many hearing instruments have audible low-battery warning signals – be sure to ask your provider what these will sound like; as well as how long you can expect the battery to last. Although zinc-air hearing aid batteries cannot be turned off completely, conserve battery power by ensuring the instrument is switched off; and if your instrument does not have an on/off switch, open the battery door fully.

Be careful not to drop your hearing aids onto hard surfaces.

Bonus tips - Some providers offer extended warranty policies; and if you are concerned about losing your devices, many insurers allow hearing instruments to be added under household insurances.