

Fall Update

How to treat your hearing aid for a long life expectancy

A hearing aid can benefit from regular maintenance, proper use, and a little bit of common sense. Prolong the lifespan of your hearing aid and reduce need for repair by following these simple steps:

1. Minimize the hearing aid's exposure to moisture: A hearing aid is an electronic device and should not get wet. Do not wear your hearing aid when showering, bathing, or during activities which you will perspire around the ears. During the summer, when moisture can be hard to avoid with the humid weather, consider daily use of a Hearing Aid Saver to reduce moisture accumulation in the device.
2. Use clean hands when handling your hearing aid: The delicate microphones, which are externally positioned, can be sensitive to debris accumulation. Touching the microphone with dirty fingers and use of hairspray or hair products can lead to the malfunctioning of this part. Hair products should be applied when the device is not in the ear and wash hands before inserting or removing your hearing aid.
3. Daily cleaning of your hearing aid: Follow the instructions given to you by your audiologist. Remember to keep the working parts free of wax and debris. Use the brush and wax pick to clear debris from the aid. Some hearing aids require monthly changing of the wax system and domes to ensure proper functionality of the device.
4. Routine visits to your audiologists: Annual visits can be beneficial to have your hearing aid professionally cleaned and checked. Behind-the-Ear hearing aids may require more frequent visits to replace the tubing once it has become hard. If you feel your hearing aid is not working properly, schedule an appointment to have it evaluated.

Following these steps will help to prevent repairs and malfunctioning aids. Take the time to protect your investment in better hearing by taking care of your hearing aid. The average life expectancy of a hearing aid is five years, but with proper maintenance, you can reduce unwanted repairs and enjoy uninterrupted hearing.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to announce that Dr. Jennifer Johnson, her husband, Tony, and daughter, Lydia are awaiting the arrival of the newest member of their family. Dr. Johnson's baby is expected to arrive on November 23. She will be taking time off to spend with her family and is expected to return in January, 2012. We ask that you prepare for her leave by scheduling any routine visits either before her due date or after her return. We understand that not all visits can be planned, therefore; our other audiologists will be available during this time. Please be patient as wait times for appointments may be longer than usual.

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School Notes

- Do you have a child or grandchild who attends school? Most children today have an MP3 player or some device which plays music. Professional Hearing Services offers custom earplugs which can be used instead of generic ear buds to work with these devices. The custom earplugs are more comfortable and make the music sound better.
- Many youth in high school are involved with marching band or orchestra. While music is a wonderful learning experience, it may be loud enough to cause hearing impairment. Individuals exposed to loud music can benefit from custom hearing protection.
- For individuals who attend college, sometime dormitory life can be much louder than they had anticipated. This can affect sleeping, studying, and even getting along with a noisy roommate. Custom earplugs can save the day and make that college transition less stressful.
- Does your child or grandchild swim competitively? Custom swim plugs can be a wonderful way to prevent water blockage.
- Increasingly, adults are returning to school to further their education or obtain training in a new field. Classrooms can be a challenging environment in which to listen. This may prompt an inquiry to see if hearing loss exists or not. There are devices that are not hearing aids which can also provide benefit, such as a Pocket Talker.

There is a lot to “learn” about school and Professional Hearing Services wants each student to do their absolute best and to keep their ears healthy. Please contact Professional Hearing Services with any questions.

Final Notice

Effective January, 2012 in an effort to reduce paper waste, we will no longer be mailing the newsletter to you unless you sign up to receive the newsletter.

Please complete the form below and mail to our office at:

Attn: Audiology/Newsletter, 1111 Delafield St. Ste 102, Waukesha, WI 53188

Indicate how you would like to receive the newsletter and we would be happy to add you to our new mailing list.

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