



Reid Hearing Center

HEARING AID INFORMATION

Dear Valued Customer,

Congratulations on taking a step toward improving your life with better hearing, and THANK YOU for the opportunity to help you with this decision! Whether you are a first time user or seasoned veteran, we want to take a moment to discuss some of the changes that can take place, your expectations from your new hearing aids and our expectations from you. For some first time users, hearing aids can be a little overwhelming, which is why we want to cover some of the changes we all face when wearing hearing aids.

1. The first thing you may experience could be a change in **your voice**. You may sound "hollow" or "in a barrel." This is a natural phenomenon called OCCLUSION. We will work with you to help you through this transition and become more comfortable with the sound of your voice.
2. The second experience is the "**feel**." We are not born with hearing aids in our ears, so it can feel different the first time we wear them. Again, it is a change but you will get used to this very soon.
3. A third experience is the way things **sound**. You are hearing again! Things will sound different at first. That is because you are not used to it. It has been a long time since you have heard things the way you should be. This too will become the norm as you are well on your way to better hearing!

Following are some examples of sounds that you may not be used to just yet:

Wind Noise - While the sound of wind can be loud at first, remember you are not used to hearing it this way. It will take some time, but with repetition you will become used to the way it sounds.

Newspaper/Paper Rustling - This can be a sharp sound at first. It will lessen with time, but we can make adjustments for you to make this more comfortable.

Pots/Pans, Doors Closing - Again this can be sharp at first. Just like everything else, we can help with these situations with some simple adjustments.

The main thing to remember is that not only do we offer the best technology; we also have the capability to adjust your hearing aids to make your everyday situations more comfortable. **It takes time to adjust**, and it can take a few visits to the Hearing Center to get things just right. Be patient and allow us the time to correct any concerns, but most of all be excited!



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Tips on Maintenance

You want to make sure you take good care of your new hearing aids. Whether you clean them every night before bed, or every morning before putting them in, make sure to clean your hearing aids every day. Our ears can get waxy, hot, wet and even dirty so it is important to take a moment every day to inspect and clean your hearing aids. It is also recommended to have your ears cleaned out on a regular basis, by either your doctor or yourself.

- Wipe your hearing aids clean at the tips where they are inserted into your ears.
- Inspect the wax stop. Is it dirty and in need of changing? You want to make sure this is clean to allow the most optimal sound to come from your hearing aids. There are instructions on how to replace these in your owner's manual. Usually replace them every three months.
- Brush off the hearing aids with the cleaning brush provided. This will keep even the lightest debris from causing future problems.
- Open the battery door every night and place your hearing aids in a safe place, high and away from pets and children. Opening the battery door each night will increase the battery life.
- Come in and see us for routine checkups. There could be several at first until we feel you are ready for a longer period between visits. Call to schedule an appointment anytime.

Goals and Expectations

Just as you have expectations of your new hearing aids, we have some for you as well. Things will be different for you at first. We understand that this is a big adjustment for you. Often, new hearing aid patients find that at first they are uncomfortable with the quick change in their hearing. We ask that you give yourself the time to learn and adjust to hearing with your new hearing aids. We know that you will have opportunities as you adjust, so we want you to know that we are here to help. We will schedule several follow up visits with you to ensure you are adjusting well, and we will make any adjustments necessary to make you comfortable with your new hearing.

Sincerely,

Your Hearing Specialist