



Caring for your Hearing Aids

A BSHAA guide to Behind-the-Ear (BTE) aids with Open Fitting



CARE • SUPPORT • ADVOCATE

Behind-the-Ear (BTE) aids with Open Fitting



BSHAA is the professional body that represents good practice in hearing care by its members. This guide is presented to you by one of its members.

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BSHAA gratefully acknowledges the support of hearing aid manufacturers who have supplied photographs of different hearing instruments for use in this guide. Their inclusion in no way reflects either preference or endorsement of any individual manufacturer by BSHAA.

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Introduction

The information provided in this leaflet has been prepared as a reminder to you of what your Audiologist has advised you about cleaning your hearing aids and moulds.

Please check with your Audiologist that you have the correct guide.

After investing in your hearing aids, you will no doubt want to keep them performing to their optimum level and for as long as possible. This cleaning guide will help you keep your aids functioning exactly as they should.

It is **essential** that you have a daily cleaning routine. If you do not do this, the tube (the part which delivers sound into your ear) may become blocked with wax and will gradually become weaker, affecting performance. If not cleaned regularly, it will eventually stop working altogether, requiring repair or even replacement. Wax blockage is regarded by manufacturers as your responsibility so they are within their rights to reject any warranty claim for damage caused by wax blockage – so even more reason to prevent it.

Your Audiologist will explain what is required to clean your aids when they are fitted. Different models require different cleaning regimes. Make sure you have a go at cleaning the aids yourself while you are with the Audiologist, especially if you are a new user.

At any time, if you have difficulty in changing filters or need to go over the cleaning regime again, contact your Audiologist and ask for help – they would prefer you to do this rather than have the aids block with wax and not perform as they should do.

Equipment

To care for your hearing aids effectively you will need:

- Tissues or antibacterial wipes if you prefer
- A small brush*
- A drying box if necessary

* *This equipment will be supplied initially when buying your instruments, **if required**.*

If you find handling a small brush too fiddly or you have problems with dexterity a new very soft baby toothbrush could be used.

All equipment usually can be ordered from your Audiologist.

Caring for your BTE aids with Open Fitting

These aids have a disposable thin tube and dome on the end. Everything is disposable - simply unscrew the tube/dome assembly from the body of the BTE, throw away and replace with a fresh tube from your Audiologist.

This replacement should be done at least once a month, more often if you make a lot of wax.

At night

- Use the little brush supplied with the aid (or a clean toothbrush) to remove anything on the outside of the aid.
- Wipe the aid with some tissue or antibacterial wipes to remove any grease from the shell.
- **Except for rechargeable instruments**, open the battery door and check the battery is clean.
- Place the aid somewhere warm to dry. If you find it difficult to dry your aids overnight, you can purchase drying boxes which use crystals to help thoroughly dry the aid. Ask your Audiologist for details. If you have rechargeable instruments the recharging unit should be sufficient to dry the aids.
- **Do not place hearing aids on a radiator or in an oven to dry!**

You can find out more about BSHAA – and access lots of information about hearing care – at www.bshaa.com