

Caring for your In-the-Canal Hearing Instruments

After investing in your hearing aids, you will no doubt want to keep them performing at 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 speaker (the component which provides sound into your ear) and the microphones (the component that picks up sound) 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.

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



To care for your hearing aids effectively you will need:

- A microfibre cloth / tissues or antibacterial wipes if you prefer
- A vent cleaner
- A dry – box - we recommend that you use a plug-in dry and clean box, but drying beakers and tablets are also available
- Wax Guards
- O-Cap microphone covers

At night:

- Gently use the cloth supplied with the aid to remove anything on the outside of the aid.
- Open the battery door and check that the battery is clean.
- Check that the vent is clear of wax and debris.
- Make sure that the wax guards and O-Cap microphone covers are clear.
- Place the aids into the dry and clean box / drying beaker with the drying tablet

In the morning:

Any wax will be hard and easier to remove. There are two areas you need to look at:

Examine the face plate of the hearing aid. Make sure that the O-Cap filter covering the microphone is clean and clear of debris. If it is blocked, replace it from the supply of new filters you were given.



O-Cap Filter



Instructions on changing O-cap filters are shown in the packaging, but please ask for help if you need it.

Next, check the end of the hearing aid that goes into your ear. You'll see the white coloured wax filter. If the centre of this is clear – it's fine. If the centre is clogged with wax, change it from the supply of new filters you were given. It's essential that the filter is firmly replaced, or it may come off in your ear.



You will find further information and “how to” videos in the “Looking After your Hearing Aids” in the Hearing Aids section of our Services.

A note on Wax guards and O-Cap Filters:

These are inexpensive compared to the price of your aid, so it is a false economy not to regularly change them regularly. If they become blocked the sound quality from the aid will deteriorate, and the aids may stop working altogether.

It is advisable, dependant on how much wax you experience, to change the wax guards at least every two weeks or even more often if you produce a lot of wax. The O-Cap filters should be replaced every two months.

If you have any queries, please contact your Audiologist, Catherine McKinney.