



Hearing Aids Batteries

Hearing aids use batteries to provide power for the hearing aids to amplify sounds. It is important for you and other caregivers to know what batteries your child's hearing aids use, how long the batteries usually last, how to check if the batteries are working, and to understand battery safety.

Batteries come in different sizes. The size is determined by the hearing aid model and only one size will work for your child's hearing aids. Each size has a different number.

Ask your audiologist what size battery your child's hearing aid uses and where to purchase hearing aid batteries in your area, including options for purchasing in bulk. Be sure to check the expiration date on the package when you purchase batteries.

A common type of battery is called zinc air. Zinc Air batteries have a sticker on the back and are activated by air. The sticker keeps the battery from activating until you are ready to use it. Take off the sticker when you are ready to use the battery. You will notice a small opening in the battery, this opening lets air into the battery. Leave the battery in the open air for about 2 minutes before placing it in the hearing aid. Putting the sticker back on will not increase the life of the battery.

The length of time the battery lasts depends on how much the hearing aids are being worn each day and how much power the hearing aids are providing. Talk to your audiologist about how long your child's hearing aid batteries should last. Keep a record of how often you need to change the battery as you get familiar with the battery life of your child's hearing aid. It can be helpful to record the date you change the battery on your calendar on the wall or on your phone. Many parents find it helpful to change the batteries in both hearing aids on the same day. Some hearing aids can use rechargeable batteries, ask your audiologist if that is an option for your child's hearing aids.

Each side of the battery is different. Place the side of the battery with the lip or curve facing down into the battery door. The flat side of the battery will then face up. If the battery is put in the wrong way, the hearing aid will not work. It may also break the battery door. The battery door should shut easily when the battery is put in the correct way. If the battery door will not shut, check the placement, the battery may need to be flipped over.

You can use a battery tester to check how your child's battery is working. There are several types, but they all work in essentially the same way. Place the battery on the tester. If a battery



is good, there will be an indicator bar or line that shows you the strength of the battery. If the battery is losing strength, it is best to change the battery.

Some hearing aid models have an indicator light. This is a light that will blink on the hearing aids when it is time to change the battery. You can ask your audiologist if your child's hearing aid has this option. If so, the feature may need to be activated in the hearing aid program. Ask your audiologist what the light will do when it is time to change the battery.

Batteries can lose power quickly when it is time to change them, so it is important to have extra batteries on hand. You may want to ask your audiologist for a small container that can hold a couple of batteries to make it easier to keep some with you.

It is best to store batteries at room temperature, and to keep them in a hard container. Store the batteries away from medications. Batteries can be dangerous if swallowed, and extra batteries should be kept out of reach of children and animals.

If someone swallows a battery call your local poison control or in the United States, the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 800-498-8666 right away. Don't induce vomiting and do not let the person who has swallowed the battery eat or drink until they have seen a doctor.

When you purchase batteries note on the packaging if they are mercury-free. If they are, you can dispose of them in your household garbage. If the batteries contain mercury or you are not sure, then assume that they are not safe to toss. Batteries that contain mercury should be recycled through a designated recycling center in your area that accepts batteries with mercury.

Consistent access to sound is important for your child to communicate using listening and spoken language. You can help your child by having extra batteries on hand, checking regularly to make sure the batteries are working, and by teaching other caregivers how to check and change the batteries.