

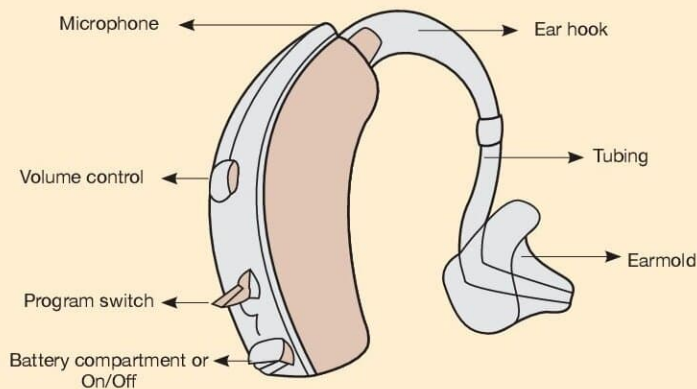
# COMMUNITY RESOURCE 3: HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR HEARING AIDS (SEE ALSO APPENDIX VI)

## INTRODUCTION

Hearing aids have different parts. There is a microphone which picks up sound from the air. The main part of the hearing aid (receiver) amplifies the sound. The amplified sound is sent down tubing to an ear mould. The ear mould sits in the pinna. The ear mould may have to be made specifically to size, so it fits the pinna precisely.

Hearing aids also have an on/off switch, a volume control, a hook to put over the pinna, and a compartment to put in batteries.

Some hearing aids do not need a mould for the ear. Some fit into the ear canal and not behind the ear. These types of hearing aid are more expensive.



### What you need:

Hearing aids  
Sealed tub  
Dry material like fine tissues or rice  
batteries

### How to care for the hearing aids:

1. Hearing aids need batteries.
2. Switch the hearing aid off when not being used, in order to save battery life.
3. Keep your hearing aid in a safe cool place when you are not using it. Do not put it in direct sunlight or in close to a heater.
4. Hearing aids must be kept dry as they may not work properly if they absorb moisture. If they get wet, remove the batteries and let everything dry out before using again.
5. Place the hearing aid into a sealed plastic tub every night, open the battery drawer (with something dry e.g fine tissues/ rice etc)
6. Spare batteries should be stored in cool dry place. They can also be kept in a refrigerator. Do not let young children near these batteries. They can be dangerous if they are swallowed.
7. Whistling noises sometimes mean that the ear mould is not inserted properly, or that the ear mould or tubing is blocked.
8. Keep the ear mould clean. The mould should be washed in hot soapy water at least once a week. Wax in the mould can be removed with a toothpick. Remove the ear mould from the tubing before washing it, to make sure the hearing aid does not get wet. Let the ear mould dry before reconnecting it to the tubing.

9. The tubing can get blocked. You can try to clean it, but if this does not work, replacement tubing is available. The tubing can also get water inside. If this happens try blowing into the tubing.
10. Ear moulds normally need replacing every 1-2 years. They may need replacing sooner if they fall out easily or if they are painful. Children grow quickly, and they might need their ear moulds replaced every few months.
11. If a hearing aid is not working it could be that the battery needs to be changed. How to check the battery is working:
  - Remove the hearing aid from the ear and take off the earmould.
  - Switch the hearing aid on and turn the volume control to the highest setting
  - Place the hearing aid in the palm of your hand.
  - If there is a continuous whistling sound the battery is working
  - If there is no whistling sound the battery is used. Replace the battery
  - If there is still no whistling sound with a new battery then there is a problem with the hearing aid
12. If a hearing aid is not working, even after the batteries are replaced, it might be broken. It can be repaired, but you should not try to repair it yourself.