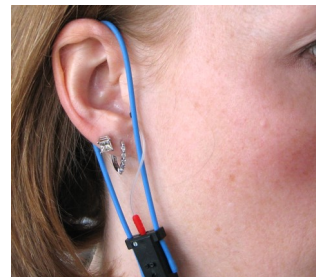


Hearing Aid Batteries



Drs Harris & Porter—Audiologists with The HEARING Place

Hearing aid batteries range in size from 3 millimeters thick by about 5 mm in diameter for the smallest battery, the size 10, to the largest that measures about 5 by 11 mm, a 675 battery. Batteries of this size could power your watch a year or so, but hearing aids use a lot more power than watches.

Hearing aid batteries are not like watch batteries in materials or voltage, and they are less expensive than watch batteries. How quickly the battery is used depends on a number of factors, including the size of the battery. The largest battery is a 675 and might, MIGHT, last two or three weeks in a hearing aid. The smallest battery is size 10 and will generally last between two to five days. Other factors that affect battery life include, but are not limited to, how much electrical current your hearing aid draws from the battery and how fresh the battery is.

In some hearing aids how much noise you are around also affects battery life. If a hearing aid is squealing (feedback) or almost squealing it will draw more battery power. If you wear your hearing aid 24 hours a day, your battery will not last as many days as someone with the same hearing aid but who wears the hearing aid ten hours a day (please don't use this as an excuse not to wear your hearing aids!).

There are hearing aids designed to be placed and worn in your ear for months before having the aid removed and replaced. In other words, the battery in these extended wear hearing aids lasts several months, and the aids are not designed to be removed by the wearer. There is a trade-off between this convenience of not having to change the battery, and having to keep the hearing aid in your ear 24 hours a day. In our way of thinking, not having to change the battery is not worth the trade off of having to leave the aid in your ear for 24 hours a day and then having to go to the specialist to have the aid removed and reinserted. We advocate removing your aid over night and giving the skin of your ear canal a chance to "breathe".



Size 10



Size 312



Size 675



Size 13

One of our patients had new hearing aids that would have a male voice say the word "battery" when the battery was about to stop working. It did this in church to her surprise (either I had failed to demonstrate how the aid would do this or she forgot). She turned to her husband and said "God is talking to me".

"What did he say," he asked?

"He told me to change my battery".

True Story

Once the sticker has been taken off of a hearing aid battery, the battery will slowly discharge over time even if not in use. So even if you are wearing your hearing aid only occasionally, the battery is probably not going to last longer than a month or so once the sticker has been removed.

The length of time a hearing aid battery stays on the shelf before you buy it makes a big difference to how long the battery will last in your hearing aids. **Battery manufacturers put a shelf-life date (or “use by” date) between 3 to 4 years after the battery is made.** That is, they rate the shelf life of the zinc-air battery up to over three years.

We think that is too optimistic. A two-year-old battery will not last as long as a two-month-old battery. That is why our batteries last longer than someone else’s: we buy batteries every month. Some large stores keep batteries on the shelf for over a year.



Better rechargeable batteries have recently been developed. They can work a hearing aid for over 18 hours a day on a single, 4-hour, charge.

They are charged with a small, travel-friendly charger. In the event that you are unable to charge the battery for some reason, the hearing aid can also use a conventional zinc-air battery.

Most rechargeable batteries are not backward compatible; if you are interested in rechargeable batteries, it will usually require new hearing aids.