

# Over-the-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids

## What Are They and Who Can Benefit?



Over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids are a new classification of hearing devices that were created by the U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) in 2022. OTC hearing aids were developed to help create additional access to lower-cost hearing devices.

### OTC devices...

- Are approved for adults 18 years of age and older.
- Are intended for individuals with mild to moderate hearing loss.
- Are available in stores or online with the consumer being responsible for setting up the device and choosing the settings.
- Do not require a hearing exam or prescription from a physician, audiologist, or hearing-health-care professional.



### Who might be a good candidate for OTC hearing aids?

If you answer "yes" to the below questions, you might benefit from OTC hearing aids.

- Are you able to hear easily in quiet, one-on-one situations?
- Are there a few difficult listening situations where you think you would want to wear the OTC hearing aids?
- If you feel like you would need it in most communication situations, you may not be a good candidate for OTC hearing aids.
- Does turning up the volume on the phone or TV just slightly help you hear better? This level might be considered a little loud by others but not extremely loud to a level that bothers others.



### Who is NOT a candidate for an OTC hearing aid?

- Individuals with a severe to profound hearing loss.
- Individuals who are experiencing hearing loss who might potentially need medical management. This can include ear pain, drainage from the ear, hearing loss in one ear, hearing loss with associated dizziness, or other conditions that might indicate the need for medical intervention.
- Individuals who require more targeted assistance or counseling to manage their hearing loss and hearing aids.

Learn more at [www.HowsYourHearing.org](http://www.HowsYourHearing.org).



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