

Is an OTC Hearing Aid Right for Me?

Consult an Audiologist First!

Seeking treatment for hearing loss is a life-changing decision, and so is **choosing a trusted professional** to guide you in your treatment. If you have concerns about your hearing, **the best first step is to get tested by a licensed audiologist, even if you are already planning to buy an OTC hearing aid.**

Audiologists check for common medical causes of hearing loss. They also can describe the severity and type of loss you may be experiencing after an evaluation, providing you with the best options for your hearing health care. Additionally, your hearing loss may change with time and require adjustments. Lakeside Audiology offers ongoing support as you navigate your hearing loss treatment.



Which Path to Improved Hearing Is Right for You?

OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) HEARING DEVICES

Appropriate for: Adults with mild hearing loss

RISKS:

- Potential for exposure to unsafe noise levels, further damaging your hearing
- No clinical support
- No professional adjustment of programming based on hearing loss
- Not approved for individuals 18 years and younger
- No long-term plan of care or medical management

PURCHASE OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- Can be purchased directly online or from a retailer
- Can be purchased without a medical professional's guidance
- No hearing evaluation required

BENEFITS:

- Efficient purchase process
- Can be ordered from your home or in-store
- Device(s) can rest in the ear canal, behind the ear or around the neck
- Device(s) can be powered by replaceable batteries or are rechargeable

PRESCRIPTION-FIT HEARING AIDS

Appropriate for: People of all ages, with all types and severities of hearing loss

RISKS: None

PURCHASE OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be purchased through a hearing health care professional
- Requires an evaluation to accurately diagnose your hearing loss and prescribe appropriate treatment

BENEFITS:

- A customized hearing treatment plan
- Continued medical management of hearing loss
- Prescription-fit hearing aids that are professionally programmed to address your unique needs
- Ongoing support with adjustment to new sounds and new technology, including troubleshooting with accessories and smartphone apps
- Aid(s) can be custom fit in the ear or behind the ear, in discreet sizes
- Aid(s) can be powered by replaceable batteries or are rechargeable

When You Should See An Audiologist for Your Hearing Loss

- If you have difficulty understanding conversations when background noise is present
- Others frequently mention that you misunderstand what they say
- If you are experiencing dizziness or a feeling of imbalance
- If you are having pain or debilitating discomfort in one or both ears
- If you have ringing in one or both ears
- If there are any sudden changes in hearing in one or both ears



To schedule an evaluation or have your OTC questions answered, **schedule an appointment today.***

(803) 620-8250 | www.lakesidehears.com



LAKESIDE AUDIOLOGY
— Hearing Solutions for All —

**Fees will be assessed for all professional services.*