



Over-the-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aid Shopping Checklist

Important steps as you shop for an OTC hearing aid

- Look for “OTC” on the label**
This new class of direct-to-consumer products must adhere to stringent standards and be cleared for sale as OTC hearing aids by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
Search online for specific devices.
- Purchase only from reputable retail or online stores**
Beware of misrepresented or fraudulent products and unscrupulous marketers. Do your due diligence—don’t share any sensitive information through digital advertisements.
- Make sure there’s a money back return policy**
It can take 3-4 weeks to adjust to a hearing aid in various settings, to determine if it will work for you.
- Understand the product’s capability and functionality**
 - ✓ Is it likely to help in common situations where you have trouble hearing?
 - ✓ Is the battery rechargeable, and how long will it last?
 - ✓ Does it have a **telecoil** and/or Bluetooth connectivity?
- Know what equipment is needed for operation and adjustments**
 - ✓ If a smartphone or computer is required to set up and adjust the settings, are you comfortable doing that?
- Ensure that the hearing aid fits comfortably in your ear**
The hearing aid should fit snugly without pain, and not fall out of your ear.

You’re not alone!

Millions of people have hearing loss, and you’re taking an important step to treat it. You may need to try multiple products to fit your individual needs—don’t give up! If necessary, seek the help of an audiologist or hearing health care professional who can advise you.

Consider joining **HLAA’s community of support**. We’re the leading organization representing people with hearing loss. Visit hearingloss.org/OTC for more information.