



**Remember...**

**If you acquire a hearing loss and need hearing aids, research shows that the earlier you take action, the easier it is to adjust to wearing hearing aids. You will also be more likely to continue with your normal daily activities and maintain your quality of life.**

Using a hearing aid will enable you to hear more - and to hear it better. You will be more alert and have better concentration. You will be more in control of things.

If you have a hearing loss, buying hearing aids is an investment in your future quality of life.



**DeafHear.ie**  
35 North Frederick Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: **01 8175700**  
Minicom: **01 8175777**  
Fax: **01 8723816**  
Fax/Text: **01 8783629**  
Email: **info@deafhear.ie**

For further information, visit:

[www.deafhear.ie](http://www.deafhear.ie)



**DeafHear.ie**

Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing People



**A guide to buying hearing aids**

What you need to know



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## Getting Your Hearing Tested

**If you have carried out our simple hearing check and feel that your hearing has deteriorated, the first thing you should consider doing is visiting your GP.**

Hearing loss can be caused by something as simple as a blockage of earwax and your GP can easily remove this for you and resolve your difficulties.

However if the problem persists then you should have your hearing tested.



## Buying Your Hearing Aids

Listen to the advice of the audiologist. Sometimes people want the 'smallest' or an 'invisible' hearing aid. However, depending on your hearing loss and lifestyle, certain types of hearing aids may not be suitable for you! **Don't buy hearing aids that are not suitable for your needs – this is false economy!**

Hearing aids are quite expensive purchases for most people. We advise people to shop around.

Ask about a free trial period and other terms and conditions. Most reputable providers offer customers a number of weeks to try out hearing aids.

If you are not happy, return them! Check if there are any retention fees or deposits that are not refundable – **if there are, then it is not really a FREE trial!**

Ask about the after care and follow-up service. Most people need their hearing aids to be programmed and fine-tuned on a number of occasions.

## Points to Remember

**If you are satisfied that you need to get hearing aids, do not be rushed into making a decision.**

- If you are a medical card holder, you are entitled to free audiology services from the HSE.
- If you don't have a medical card, try to go to a hearing aid centre that is recommended to you by a friend or relative.
- Try to make sure that the dispenser is a qualified audiologist. Some hearing aid dispensers have very little training, and you are less likely to get a professional service from them.
- Book an appointment, and try to bring a friend or relative with you for support! This can help avoid you being forced into making a rash decision.
- Many businesses offer free hearing tests but be wary if the person testing your hearing is too pushy and focuses too much on simply trying to sell you a hearing aid.
- Be aware of providers who are offering gimmicks: there is no such thing as a free lunch! Make sure you are dealing with a qualified audiologist - not a salesperson. You may feel a bit nervous getting your hearing tested: but it doesn't take long and there is no pain involved!

