

BATTERY BASICS

Hearing aid wearers rely on batteries every day and today's button cell hearing aid batteries are primarily made with zinc-air. The zinc battery cells are basically "dead" until activated by air when the consumer removes the sealing tab. A zinc-air battery typically reaches full battery potential within 30 seconds following the removal of the tab. For this reason, the tab should never be removed until the battery is ready to be used. Regardless of use, if tab is removed, the battery will discharge within a month.

These batteries are sensitive to extreme temperatures and humidity. Never store them in the refrigerator. The best place is in a dresser drawer, away from all metal objects. Shelf life is three to four years.

In order to prevent oil from the skin blocking the tiny air holes, care should be taken when handling zinc-air batteries not to touch the air holes.

The tabs have been known to accidentally stick on the hearing aid and go unnoticed into the ear. Place the tab back on the package (or better yet, on the day of your calendar.)

Hearing Health, Winter, 2007