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## Buying a Hearing Aid

### Consumer Tips on Hearing Aids

- **Visit a licensed Hearing Aid Specialist** who meets state requirements for education and performance. You can check a license status and disciplinary actions using the online [License Lookup](#) tool, or by contacting the [Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians](#).
- **Get an ear examination** from a licensed physician. Be wary of advertisements for hearing aids that dismiss the need for an exam – the seller may be promoting an inadequate product.
- Before selling a hearing aid, Hearing Aid Specialists **must** recommend that the consumer obtain a written statement from a licensed physician indicating a **medical evaluation** of hearing loss within the past six months. Hearing Aid Specialists are prohibited from actively encouraging a consumer to waive a medical exam.
- Hearing Aid Specialists must perform **testing before and after fittings** for a hearing aid. These evaluations will help ensure the best hearing aid type and fit for your individual needs.
- State regulations require that consumers get at least a **30-day trial period** for hearing aids.
- **Insist on a detailed purchase agreement or contract**, including information on service, maintenance, and warranty terms.
- Do not rely on verbal promises. Get all explanations in writing.
- Do not feel pressured into buying a hearing aid. Ask for more information or a second opinion.
- Door-to-door salespersons must provide a disclosure form with information on service and maintenance.
- Buying a hearing aid through the mail is risky, because it is hard to get a proper fit, and service and repair may not be readily available.

To learn more about services available to the hearing impaired, visit the [Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) website.

Website for the [Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians](#).

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