



# How long does it take to charge rechargeable batteries

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It's a small wonder that rechargeable hearing aids have become so popular so quickly: fiddling with tiny batteries is among the most annoying things about owning a most types of hearing aid. The disposable button batteries that power traditional hearing aids need replacing every few weeks at least, or as often as every few days if you're a high-power user.

Rechargeable hearing aids aren't hearing aids that take rechargeable batteries. You can't actually get rechargeable batteries in the size required. Instead, these rechargeable devices power up like electric toothbrushes, via contact with a charging surface. All you do is pop your rechargeable hearing aids into a special charging case for anything from half an hour to overnight.

Below, we'll reveal some of the best rechargeable hearing aids you can currently buy. First, here's our in-depth guide to the pros and cons of rechargeable hearing aids, including their features, their availability and their cost.

Rechargeable hearing aids work in the same way as non-rechargeable hearing aids, except that they're powered by built-in lithium ion (or, less commonly, silver zinc) batteries that don't need to be replaced or thrown away.

All rechargeable hearing aids charge by contact with a port or case, which is in turn plugged into the mains via a USB-to-mains cable. Many users find it convenient to keep their hearing aids in the charging case overnight, so they're always ready for action in the morning.

Most hearing aid charging cases retain some power in their on-board battery, so they effectively double as portable power banks. The amount of charge a case retains varies quite a bit, though. Some of the best cases can store enough residual power for three full charges.

The big advantage is convenience, because they do away with the need to buy and replace tiny disposable batteries every few days or weeks. Many of us are so used to charging our phones, laptops, earbuds and toothbrushes that charging our hearing aids seems completely natural.

Easier handling: If you have dexterity issues and don't like having to constantly remove and replace tiny hearing aid batteries, a switch to rechargeables can be a big relief. What's more, a pile of spent disposable batteries can be a real pain, and heavy, to carry to the supermarket for pouring into those special battery bins.

Safety: Button batteries are dangerous if they're swallowed by pets or small children, and this happens

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worryingly often. With rechargeable hearing aids, the batteries are sealed inside the device. Just don't let your dog swallow your hearing aid!

Hearing aids are sophisticated little devices that chomp through power, especially if you need plenty of audio enhancement for hours each day. So in terms of battery life, they're more like smartphones than electric toothbrushes, lasting a day rather than weeks before they need charging.

Current generations of rechargeable hearing aids with lithium-ion batteries can hold a charge for up to 30 hours, depending on the high-power features you use. High-power features include greater levels of amplification or sound enhancement, plus extra functions such as Bluetooth and mobile streaming.

The batteries inside rechargeable hearing aids have about the same lifespan as the hearing aids themselves (around five years for lithium ion devices), so you're unlikely to have to replace the built-in battery at any point. That said, most hearing aid manufacturers will replace the battery if it dies while the hearing aids are still working well.

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