

Are there accessories I can buy to stop interference?

To some extent “yes,” but you should talk to your audiologist about it. There are wired systems that use your hearing aid’s telephone setting, and there are a few wireless systems.

Can I use a hands-free system with my hearing aids?

Yes. There are at least three options:

- Plug a neckloop into the phone and use the telephone setting on your hearing aids
- Use the speaker phone on your cell phone
- Use a Bluetooth® system that talks to both your hearing aids and the cell phone



What is Bluetooth?

Bluetooth is a wireless technology named after Harold Bluetooth – a Danish Viking and king. It is a wireless system that uses radio waves to link two devices, for example a cell phone and hearing aids.



For more information:
www.AccessWireless.org
or
www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/hac_wireless.html

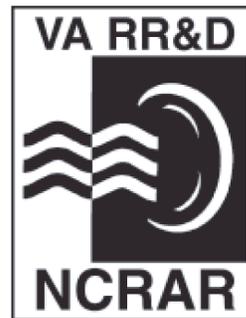
Other resources:

Hearing Loss Association of America:
www.hearingloss.org

Better Hearing Institute:
www.betterhearing.org

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: www.asha.org/public/

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders:
www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing



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Hearing Aids: Wireless Compatibility

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The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires that digital wireless phones and handsets can be used by people who wear hearing aids. This brochure will answer questions about hearing aids and how well they work with cell phones. This is known as "Hearing Aid Compatibility" (HAC).

I've heard that not all cell phones will work with my hearing aids. How do I find out?

You can find this information in a few places:

- 1) at the retail store on display cards that describe the cell phone.
- 2) on the cell phone package.
- 3) in the cell phone user's manual.



Any cell phone that works with hearing aids will have a rating that has the letter "M" or "T," and a number from 1 to 4. For example, it may say M3.

What do "M" and "T" mean?

"M" means the cell phone or wireless device should be used with your hearing aids in the **M**icrophone setting.

"T" means the cell phone or wireless device should be used with your **T**elephone switch.



What do the numbers 1 to 4 in the rating mean?

If your hearing aids and the cell phone or wireless device are compatible, both will have a number rating, from 1 to 4. If you add the numbers on your cell phone and hearing aids you will get the "combined rating." Ideally, you will have a combined rating of 5 or more. If the combined rating is less than 5, you may have problems using your cell phone with your hearing aids. But remember, these numbers are guidelines. They are not a guarantee that your cell phone will work with your hearing aids.

What is the telephone setting on my hearing aids?

The telephone setting, or t-coil, is a setting that can be built into hearing aids for use with the telephone or other assistive listening devices (ALDs). It provides a more direct connection to the telephone, which allows you to increase the volume without getting "whistling" (feedback) from your hearing aids. It can also help by reducing background noise when you are talking on the phone.



Do hearing-aid compatible cell phones cost more or look different?

Hearing-aid compatible cell phones cost and look the same as other phones.



What do I need to think about when choosing a cell phone to use with my hearing aids?

- ✓ Make sure the phone is hearing aid compatible.
- ✓ Look for the rating to find out whether it is rated "M" or "T". If it is rated "T," make sure you have a telephone switch on your hearing aid.
- ✓ Test out different cell phones to find the one that works best with your hearing aids.
- ✓ Test the cell phone in different locations since interference varies from place to place.
- ✓ Set the phone to vibrate as well as to ring. Choose a ring tone you can hear easily. With most hearing losses, a low pitch ring tone is best.
- ✓ Find out whether the cell phone comes with a trial period and whether it can be returned if it doesn't work for you.

What happens when a cell phone or wireless device isn't compatible with hearing aids?

When a cell phone isn't compatible with your hearing aids, you will hear a buzzing sound. This is the hearing aid picking up interference from the cell phone, from the screen of a wireless phone, its battery or its circuit board.

