

Changing a Wax Trap / Wax Stop / NoWax On your Receiver-in the Canal (RIC) or CRT Hearing Aid



Why Do I need to Change my Wax Trap?

If you notice that you are not hearing as well as you did yesterday, there are two things to check: the battery and the wax trap.

- To see how to change a dead battery, check out our other tutorial entitled “Changing the battery in your hearing aid”

Other than a battery, the second biggest reason you may notice a decrease in your hearing is because your hearing aid is clogged with wax.

- RICs have built in filters to keep the wax from damaging the device
- To fix it, all you have to do is change the filter, or wax trap.

If your filter is clogged, you will notice a decrease in volume, or you may not hear any sound at all.

Note: Not all behind-the-ear hearing aids have wax traps. Your hearing aid could possibly have a slimtube, and if you're not hearing well, you may need to clean that tube. If you're not sure what kind of aid you have, give us a call, and we'll help.

How do I know if I need to change my Wax Trap?

You may need to change your wax trap if:

- You're not hearing well. With your hearing aids on your ears, run your fingers over the top of the aids (behind your ear). If you hear a sandpaper-like sound, then your aids are on, and ok!
- If you do not hear any sounds from your hearing aids, check the battery.
- If you are still not hearing sounds with a new battery, you may need to change the wax trap.

Step 1: Find a good location



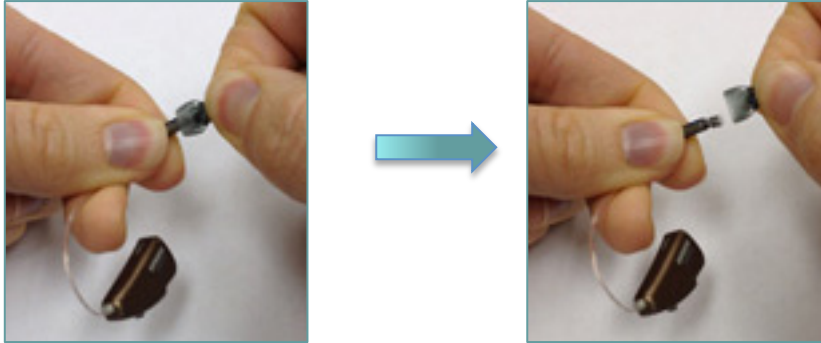
Hearing aids and domes have a tendency to find their way to the floor. Try to find a counter top, desk, couch, or bed that is free of clutter. Ideally find a surface in a contrasting color to your hearing aid, so that if you drop, it, you'll be able to find it.

Also, be aware of the color of the floor – if the hearing aid falls on the floor, you *really* want to find it fast!

Step 2: Remove the dome

Remove the hearing aid from your ear. Using a soft cloth or tissue wipe the silicone dome / tip area to remove any excess wax.

Firmly grasp the dome, and pull to remove. (Don't worry, you won't hurt anything!)



Step 3: Check the wax trap



The wax trap (also called wax stop, NoWax, or simply the filter) is the white circle on the end of the receiver. If it is clogged, you may see some yellow (wax) or even brown (dry wax) substance in the filter. Sometimes it is difficult to see. If your hearing aid is not producing a sound, and you checked the battery, it is still probably the wax trap.

DO NOT use a brush or even tissue to try to clean the filter. You may push the wax further into the receiver, damaging it. You need to CHANGE the filter.

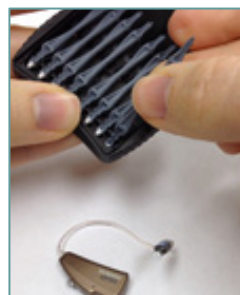


Step 4: Change the Wax Trap

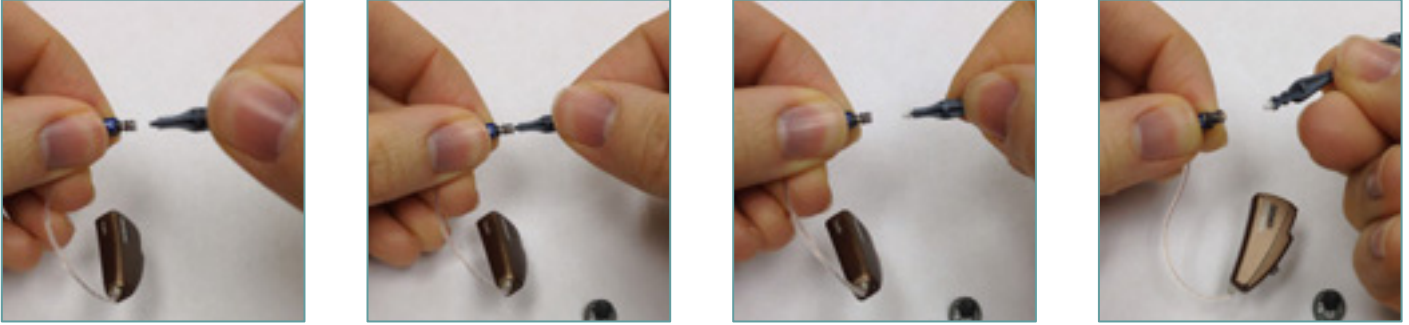


Find the packet of Wax Traps / Wax Stop / NoWax. If you got your hearing aids from AHA, it's probably in the bag with your batteries and other supplies!

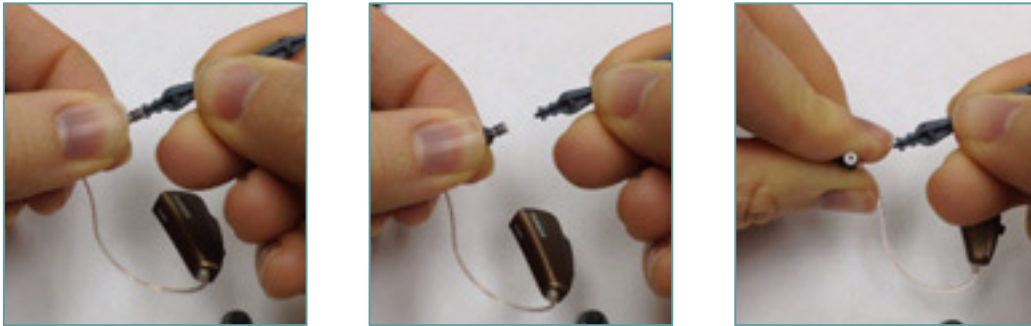
Open the packet and remove one of the "wands." You'll see a new white filter on one end, opposite an empty black side.



Line up the empty side, and gently push it into the very center of the filter currently on your aid. Gently twist the wand, then pull straight out. The old, dirty filter should be on the wand.

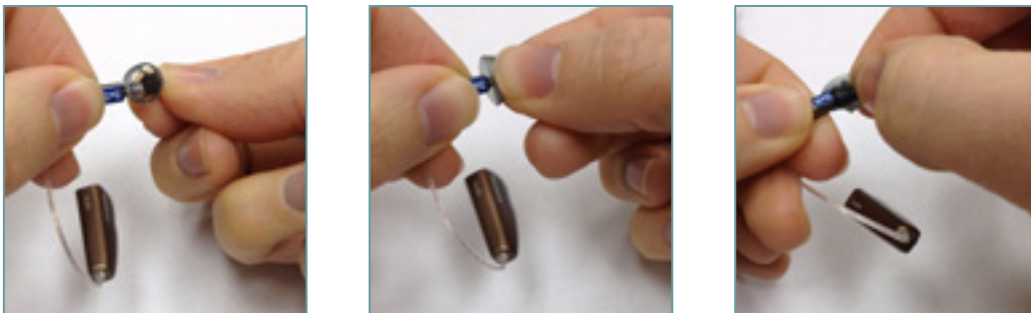


Flip the wand over, then line up the new filter to go straight into the receiver. Important: try to go as straight as possible into the receiver! Gently press filter into the receiver, then pull the wand straight out. The filter should now be on the receiver. You can discard the wand and old dirty filter.



Step 5: Put the dome back on

Put your dome back on the receiver. You should feel it “click” into place. There is a little sleeve where the dome fits onto the receiver, take a peek underneath to be sure it is lining up correctly!



Problems? Questions?

If this does not fix the problem, call us and tell us that you changed the battery and wax trap, but are still not hearing. We'll get you in as soon as possible! Please don't use your entire pack of wax traps in one sitting!

If you have any trouble changing the wax trap or putting the dome back on, feel free to call or stop by, and we'd be happy to help you.