

# Buying Hearing Aids (health watch)

The ability to hear is a precious possession. Without it, we cannot communicate with each other, identify warning or danger signals, regulate the quality and volume of our own voices or enjoy the sounds of the environment. However, for those who suspect a hearing loss or impairment, the Better Business Bureau prescribes a careful course of action, especially when purchasing a hearing aid.

The first step is to consult a doctor, if he cannot help he may recommend an ear specialist. Usually called an otologist or otolaryngologist, the ear specialist is a physician who diagnoses and treats hearing problems. Or, your doctor or ear specialist may refer you to an audiologist who is trained to measure hearing and to help rehabilitate and counsel people with a hearing loss.

**The Hearing Aid Dealer**  
If the ear specialist determines that a hearing aid is needed, he may refer his patients directly to a hearing aid dealer. Hearing aid dealers are in the business of fitting, selling and servicing hearing aids. Keep in mind that when choosing a hearing aid, one also is selecting a hearing aid dealer.

Most hearing aid dealers are reputable, well-established and provide reliable products and services. Under new federal regulations, a hearing aid dealer must not sell a hearing aid unless the patient presents a physician's statement that the hearing loss has been medically

evaluated and that the patient may be considered a candidate for a hearing aid. However, if you are 18 or older, and have carefully considered the state of your own health, you may waive the medical evaluation. In that case, the hearing aid dealer (1) must inform you that the waiver is not in your best health interest, (2) must not in any way actively encourage the

are needed in the selection of a hearing aid. **Choosing a Hearing Aid**  
The main purpose of buying a hearing aid is to choose an aid that will provide the most help. Keep in mind, however, that a hearing aid does not restore normal hearing nor will a hearing aid help everyone who has a hearing problem.

In choosing a hearing aid, do not be overly influenced by price or appearance. An inexpensive hearing aid of poor quality may not be of use if it has to be replaced constantly. A moderately-priced aid may be satisfactory. In addition, a tiny hearing aid that is inconspicuous may have little value if it does not amplify sound adequately to suit the required needs.

**tips for consumers**  
from your  
**BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU**

waiver, and (3) must afford you an opportunity to sign a written statement of waiver.

The hearing aid dealer also is required to provide his patient with a copy of a user instructional brochure before the hearing aid is purchased. Both hearing aid dealer and patient should review this booklet together.

**Turning a Deaf Ear**  
Be sure to avoid the traveling salesperson who tries to sell a hearing aid at a reduced price; never buy a hearing aid as a result of a hearing test conducted in the home. Similarly, hearing aids sold through the mail may not be the best bargain for your health or your wallet. Keep in mind that expert assistance as well as a medical evaluation

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There is a right way and a wrong way to do almost everything and this includes taking medicine.

When medicine is prescribed for you, it is prescribed for you alone and should be taken in the exact dose at the proper time for it to best do its job. Since some prescription medications can be dangerous to you if taken improperly, the North Carolina Medical Society offers a few useful directions:

-Store medicine in a cabinet, preferably locked, away from the reach of children.

Keep only those medicines that you are currently using.

-Destroy old prescriptions because many drugs lose potency or become chemically changed over a period of time.

-Never take medicine in the dark, it's too easy to make a mistake. If it's late at night, turn on the light. If you wear glasses for reading, put them on.

-Keep medicines in the original container to avoid confusing them with other medicines. If you use a pill container paste a small label on the inside of the lid.

-Keep medicines away from the bedside table. Make it necessary to get up and cross the room to take them. It is too easy to take an overdose of the medication by accidentally repeat-

ing it during the night when you're sleepy.

-Read the label in a good light - before opening the bottle or container. Read it again before taking the medicine.

-If you have more than one container of pills or capsules to take, make sure one is closed before taking the other. This avoids mix ups in taking the medica-

tion. When pouring from a bottle, keep the label facing up so that if anything drips down the side of the bottle it will not discolor the label and make it hard to read.

-Avoid using medicine for children that is disguised as candy. The child may like it so much that he'll find the medicine and take the whole bottle.

**"Consumer on the go"**

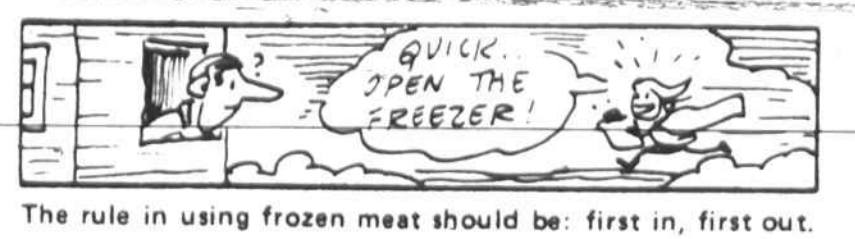
**Summer Travelers: Shop Wisely For Air Travel Insurance**  
Ever find yourself in a quandary about which air flight insurance to purchase when you're at the airport? American Express Company suggests that you investigate your options before making a hasty, last minute decision so you can get the most for your money.

According to the Aviation Consumer Action Project, consumers are not informed about air travel insurance

options available to them. In many cases they are being "ripped off" at airport

By doing some homework before your flights you can feel more certain that you're getting the most for your money.

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The rule in using frozen meat should be: first in, first out.

## Skipper's Place

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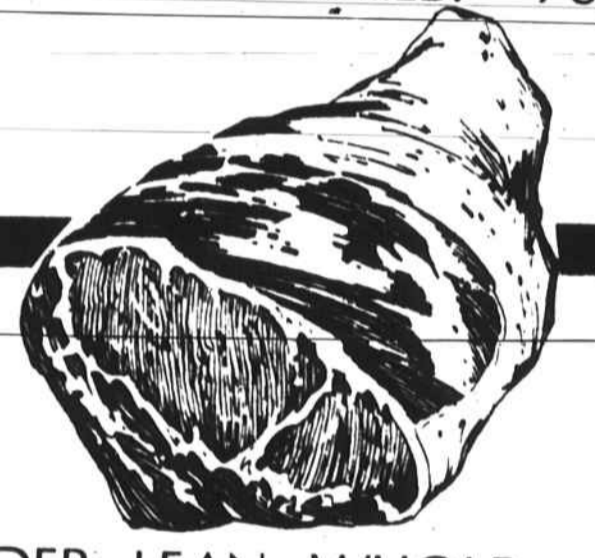
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Totinos Frozen Pizza Large Size Each <b>79¢</b>	Hi Dri Brand Towel Big Roll <b>39¢</b>	Boneless Chuck Roast Choice lb. <b>\$1.19</b>	Argo Sliced Peaches 29oz. Can <b>49¢</b>
Tender Yellow Corn Ear Just <b>10¢</b>	Kraft Macaroni Dinner 7 1/4 oz. pkg. <b>\$4.74</b>	Double Q or Pink Rose Salmon Tall Can <b>\$1.39</b>	Marcal Toilet Tissue 4 roll pkg. <b>69¢</b>

Note: Prices Good At Discount House On Patterson Ave., Too!