

Hearing Aid-Compatible Phones

Cell phones are rated according to their hearing aid compatibility in terms of RF transmissions or telecoiling coupling capability. Cell phones using acoustic coupling technology are tested for reduced RF emissions according to the ANSI C63.19 standard. Those that are considered passing (those with a rating of "good" or "excellent") for use with hearing aids set in microphone mode are assigned a rating of M3 or M4. Cell phones using inductive coupling technology are tested for telecoil coupling capability according to the ANSI C63.19 standard. Those that are considered passing (those with a rating of "good" or "excellent") for use with hearing aids set in telecoil mode are assigned a rating of T3 or T4. The higher the "M" or "T" rating, the better the cell phone and the less likely the hearing aid user will experience interference while using a cell phone.

The ratings are not guarantees. Results will vary depending on the user's hearing device and hearing loss. If your hearing device happens to be vulnerable to interference, you may not be able to use a rated phone successfully. Trying out the phone with your hearing device is the best way to evaluate it for your personal needs.

Hearing devices may also be measured for immunity to this type of interference. Your hearing device manufacturer or hearing health professional may help you find results for your hearing device. The more immune your hearing aid is, the less likely you are to experience interference noise from mobile phones.