

Removal and Cleaning

At one time, all artificial eye wearers were told to remove and clean the prosthesis on a regular basis. It has since been learned that removal on a regular basis keeps the eye socket mildly irritated. Today's artificial eyes generally need less attention due to improved fitting and polishing techniques. Many people do not feel the need to remove their prosthesis between visits to their ocularist.

However, should you need to remove your prosthesis, removal and reinsertion is an easy process. Your ocularist can show you the correct method. If you do remove your artificial eye, be sure to thoroughly wash your hands first; this will reduce the risk of infection and irritation.

Removing your prosthesis

- Wash your hands thoroughly
- Apply suction cup to center of prosthesis
- Holding suction cup with one hand, pull down lower lid
- Slide prosthesis down and out from underneath lid

Cleaning your prosthesis

- Rinse prosthesis thoroughly with warm water
- Rub with a mild soap to clean away debris and hand oils (we recommend Dawn® Dishwashing Detergent)
- Rinse thoroughly

Reinserting your prosthesis

- Apply suction cup slightly below center of iris
- Lift upper lid and slide prosthesis up underneath
- When prosthesis has been pushed up under lid, release upper lid and pull lower lid down
- Set prosthesis in place
- Squeeze suction cup to release from prosthesis

Note: It is not required to use a suction cup to remove nor to insert prosthesis.

Checkups

It is recommended that you return to our office every six months to have your prosthesis polished. Usually there is a significant build-up of salt and protein deposits with time. Polishing removes these potentially irritating deposits. We will also evaluate your prosthesis' fit and appearance. Sometimes a build-up or adjustment may be called for, due to subtle changes in the eye's socket tissue.

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Eye Drops

A few artificial eye wearers experience “dry eye” due to lack of lubrication. In these cases, the ocularist will often recommend an aqueous lubricating solution such as artificial tears. In cases where the individual cannot close the eyelids all the way or the eyelids do not close during sleep, an oily lubricant may be recommended. We recommend and use a silicone lubricant called Ocu-Sil™, which can be obtained at www.ocu-sil.com.

Storing the Prosthesis

If the prosthesis must be left out of the socket overnight or longer for any reason, store it in water or in a contact lens soaking solution.

Other Points to Remember

- If you must rub the eye, rub towards the nose with the eyelids closed. Wiping away from the nose may cause the prosthesis to fall out.
- Do not expose the prosthesis to alcohol, ether, chloroform, or any other solvents as these may damage the acrylic beyond repair.
- Most people can wear their artificial eye safely while swimming; however, to prevent accidental loss, you should wear swim goggles or remove the eye and store it safely.
- Protect your remaining eye by wearing protective glasses.

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