

Home care of your adhesive retained prosthesis

Preparing your skin and your prosthesis

Practice positioning your prosthesis without adhesive using a mirror to ensure accurate placement. Wash and thoroughly dry your hands and the skin where your prosthesis is to be placed. Clean the back of your prosthesis with a soft bristled toothbrush, mild colorless liquid soap, and warm water.



Applying your prosthesis

Adhesive should be applied with a cotton tipped applicator. Evenly spread a thin layer of adhesive along the edges of the back side of your prosthesis. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. This process will be demonstrated by the clinician during the delivery of your prosthesis.

Allow the adhesive to reach its proper application state. Usually, the adhesive will need to dry clear before the prosthesis can be placed on the skin. Depending on the type of adhesive used and your specific needs, a second layer may need to be applied.

Using a mirror, carefully position and press your prosthesis onto your skin to ensure good contact. You will need to hold the prosthesis in place for 30-60 seconds to secure adhesive.



Removing your prosthesis

Remove your prosthesis daily to keep your tissues healthy and to maintain good hygiene. Grasp the thickest edge of your prosthesis and remove it slowly so as not to tear the edges or irritate your skin.

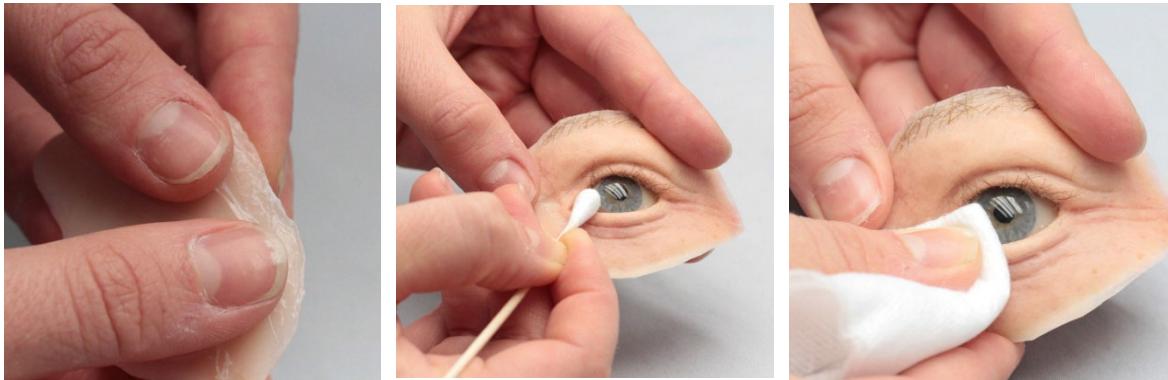
If necessary, place a moist washcloth over the surface of the prosthesis to loosen the adhesive from your skin.

Cleaning your prosthesis

Adhesive should be removed gently by rolling it off the prosthesis with your fingertips. Roll the adhesive from the center to the outer edges of the prosthesis. Soaking the prosthesis in a cup of warm water helps to soften the adhesive and makes it easier to remove

Once the adhesive is removed, clean the back side of the prosthesis with a soft-bristled toothbrush, mild soap, and warm water. The front should be washed with soap and warm water and your fingers or a cotton tipped applicator to remove any dirt or debris. Do NOT use a toothbrush to clean the front of the prosthesis.

Remove any traces of adhesive or oil by gently wiping the tissue side with gauze or a soft-textured cloth. Do NOT use any solvents or cleansers stronger than a mild colorless soap to clean the prosthesis.



Cleaning your skin

Wash your face with soap and water after removing the prosthesis and remove any adhesive residue from the skin. You may use rubbing alcohol but be sure to apply moisturizing lotion on a nightly basis to restore natural body oils.

Report any areas of inflammation or irritation to the Craniofacial Care Program at (780) 735-2660 as you may be reacting to the adhesive and/or rubbing alcohol.

Color changes

- Avoid smoking, as it will stain and yellow the prosthesis.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight, which can cause color fading and weakening of the prosthetic material. When outside wear a hat if possible.
- Avoid the use of strong solvents, such as benzene and xylene, which can cause fading and weakening of the prosthetic material.

Storing the prosthesis

- Store the prosthesis in a dry, safe place (for example, a bedside table drawer). Keep it out of the reach of children and animals. Avoid moist or hot environments like the bathroom or kitchen.
- If you have an orbital prosthesis, store it in an upright position to help maintain eyelashes.
- If you have an auricular or nasal prosthesis, store it upside down to protect the thin edges of the margins.



Preventing mishaps

- Avoid extreme temperature changes, which can cause adhesive to fail.
- Carry extra adhesive and prepackaged alcohol pads when out for long periods of time.
- Avoid placing the prosthesis in purses or pockets close to items such as ink pens or makeup that could stain it.
- Be careful not to spill the adhesive bottle. To prevent evaporation, keep the lid tightened when not in use.



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