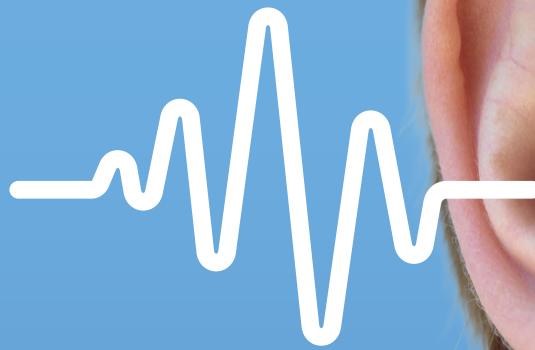


OTC HEARING AIDS COULD BE GREAT FOR CONSUMERS, BUT THEY MUST BE SAFE

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT GAIN & OUTPUT?



WHAT IS GAIN?



Gain refers to the amount of amplification applied to sound as it enters the hearing aid. It is what makes a hearing aid effective.

WHAT IS OUTPUT?



Output refers to the amplified sound that is delivered to the ear. Limitations on output are what make hearing aids safe to users.

High levels of gain and output can potentially worsen a person's hearing.

The CDC indicates that individuals may experience hearing loss if exposed to 120 dB of sound for as little as **9 seconds**.¹ This level of sound is equivalent to that experienced when operating a chainsaw.

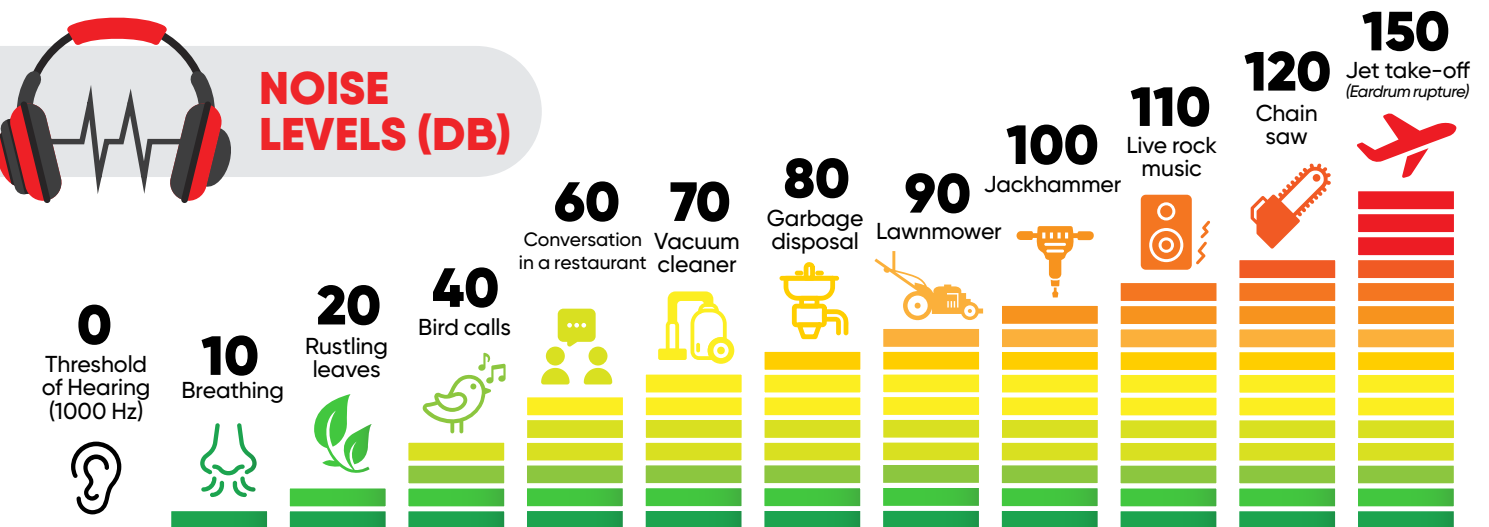
With the FDA now in the process of creating a new category of hearing aids that will soon be available over-the-counter to adults with mild-to-moderate hearing loss, it's important for consumers to be aware of potential impacts of high gain and output levels.

The FDA is proposing to allow OTC hearing aids to have a maximum output of 120 db. We think this is very dangerous and have urged the FDA to adopt more appropriate output and gain limits. Keeping consumers safe should be the number one priority.

NCL encourages consumers to submit comments to the FDA stressing the need for safe and effective OTC hearing aids based on the consensus recommendations from leading hearing care professional associations for a maximum output of 110 dB and gain limit of 25dB.



NOISE LEVELS (DB)



1. https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hearing_loss/what_noises_cause_hearing_loss.html