

Am I allowed to drive?

You must contact the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and your insurance company to inform them of any changes in your eyesight. They will tell you what is required.

Do I have to remove the eye at night before sleeping?

No, it is not necessary to remove the artificial eye at night. If you use a cosmetic shell when you have an underlying eye, this should be removed at night. You can sleep with an artificial eye in position and this can help keep the socket in shape. Removing the eye is a personal choice.

Can eye make-up still be worn with an artificial eye?

Eye make-up can be worn after the socket has healed and is free from infection. You should keep make-up away from the surface of the artificial eye to minimise the possibility of irritation and infection.



Please remember

You can get further guidance on handling and caring for artificial eyes should you feel that you or a family member / carer need it.

Further information

If you need more advice, reassurance or information on wearing an artificial eye, please give the Artificial Eye Clinic a call.



Artificial Eye Clinic
Shankill Health and Wellbeing Centre
83 Shankill Road
Belfast
BT13 1FD
Tel: 028 9504 0798

Frequently asked questions and answers for artificial eye wearer



Patient information leaflet

I have discharge present in my eye socket / on the artificial eye. Is this normal?

Yes, this is normal. The amount of discharge present will depend on the person.

It is usually white or cream coloured. Regular cleaning of the eye can usually help keep the discharge at a manageable level.

If the discharge is very heavy or is green in colour, this can be a sign of infection in the socket. An infection could also leave the socket sore, inflamed and red in colour.

You may be able to treat an infection with antibiotic drops or ointment.

If you have any concerns about this, please contact your Artificial Eye Clinic or GP for advice.

Can I swim with my artificial eye in place?

Yes, you can swim with your artificial eye in place. It is advisable to wear swimming goggles to reduce the risk of chlorine entering the socket. Sometimes the eye can slip out or displace if the eyelids are vigorously rubbed, so wearing goggles can help minimise this.

After swimming, rinse out your eye socket with cooled boiled water to help remove any traces of chlorine or sea water. This helps reduce the possibility of infections and irritation.

My eye waters / my socket is feeling dry. What can I do?

Windy, dusty or warm conditions and air conditioning or central heating can dry out moisture from the socket. Watering can occur if you are experiencing dryness, as the body tries to lubricate the eye by producing tears.

Using lubricant drops is recommended to help with dryness or irritation. These can be used a number of times throughout the day to provide comfort.

These drops may also help you blink more easily.

If you are experiencing dryness in the socket, please speak to the ocularist or ophthalmic consultant, who can advise on the appropriate lubricant drop to use.

Will an artificial eye affect my daily activities?

Your daily activities should generally not be affected by wearing an artificial eye.

If you are playing sport, it is advisable to **always** wear goggles or glasses to help protect the vision in your remaining eye. If you are doing DIY or gardening, the same advice applies.

When walking with others, some artificial eye wearers feel it is generally easier to have the people walk on your sighted side if you have one functioning eye. This means you don't have to turn your body each time to speak to them and your general balance is less affected.