

Department of Optometry, Oxford Eye Hospital

Care of your Rigid Gas Permeable Contact Lenses

Information for patients



Please read ALL the instructions through carefully:

1. **Always** wash and dry your hands thoroughly before inserting or removing your lenses. Take care not to catch the lens or your eye with your fingernails – keep them short.
2. Work over a clean, flat surface, or put in the plug if you are working over a sink!
3. Eye infections may occur due to poor lens case hygiene. There is no point putting a clean lens into a dirty case! Scrub your case weekly using a drop of your **contact lens cleaner** and a cotton bud and rinse with **saline**. **DO NOT** use soap in case it is not fully rinsed away.
4. **DO NOT** rinse your case or lenses with tap water as this can cause eye infections.
5. Remember to replace your lens case every 3 months. (Deposits can build up on your case the same way they build up on the contact lens.)

Lens Insertion

1. Place the soft part of your fingertip in the centre of the lens to remove it from the case. Take care not to drag lens up the side of the case, as this may cause scratching.
2. The lens may be inserted directly from the wetting and soaking solution in the case, or rinsed with saline first. Check that the lens is not damaged.
3. Balance the lens on your fingertip and place a drop of fresh wetting and soaking solution onto the centre of the lens. This 'cushions' the lens and makes it more comfortable when inserted in the eye.
4. Hold your eyelids wide, remembering to position your fingers along the lash base to get maximum effect, and insert the lens directly onto the centre of your cornea, i.e. over the black pupil.
5. If the lens slips onto the white of your eye, gently use the edges of your eyelid to push it back into the centre, or remove the lens and re-insert it onto the centre of your cornea.
6. If the lens is particularly uncomfortable, remove it, rinse it with saline solution and re-insert.
7. If you wear two lenses then repeat steps 1 - 6 for the second lens.
8. Empty the remainder of the wetting and soaking solution from the case, rinse with saline and leave to air dry.

Lens Removal

1. Remove the lens as directed by your optometrist.
2. Place the lens onto the palm of your hand, turned upwards like a cup.
3. Place a drop of cleaner (from the small bottle) onto the lens and your hand. Rub lens gently, but firmly, with the little finger of your other hand for 30 seconds. Rinse away the cleaner with saline.
4. Place fresh wetting and soaking solution (from the larger bottle) into the case.
5. Place the lens into the correct side of the lens case. The soaking solution has a cycle time of 6 hours, so the lens must remain in the solution for a minimum of 6 hours to ensure disinfection is complete.
6. If you wear two lenses, repeat steps 1 to 5 for the other eye.
 - **Never use tap water to rinse your contact lenses or case**
 - **Do not get cleaner in your eye**
 - **It is safe to get the wetting and soaking solution (from the larger bottle) in your eyes.**

Eye makeup and contact lenses

Getting makeup in your eye is annoying, but it's worse with lenses as it can stick to the lenses instead of being flushed out by your tears.

Put in your contact lenses before applying makeup.

Always wash hands thoroughly before touching lenses to avoid transferring oils, creams or lotions onto them.

Use only non-allergenic makeup.

Cream eye shadow is less likely to get into your eyes than powder. However, creams can irritate your eyes more if they do get in. Choose water-based rather than oil-based creams.

If you prefer powder, keep your eyes closed during application, then brush off any excess before opening your eye.

Never apply eyeliner between your lashes and your eye. Only apply it to the portion of the lashes that is well away from your eye.

To remove makeup, wash and dry hands. Then remove contact lenses as described above. Finally, use your eye makeup remover.

Replace your eye make up **frequently** – at least every 3 months. Bacteria can get into the product and build up overtime, thereby increasing the risk of infection if it gets into your eye.

Never share eye makeup.

Points to remember

1. If either eye is red, sticky or uncomfortable remove the lens and contact the:

Optometry Department

Monday to Friday 9.15am to 5.30pm
on **01865 234740**

or contact

Eye Casualty

Open 24 hours daily on **01865 234800**.

2. Always keep your aftercare appointments. If the time is inconvenient please contact the Call Centre on **01865 231405** to re-arrange the appointment.
3. Never wear your lenses overnight.
4. Do not wear your lenses for longer than your optometrist advises. Build up your wearing time gradually. Begin with 2 hours and increase by ½ hour daily.
5. Never wear a damaged lens. If you need a replacement contact the Optometry Department on **01865 234740**.
6. If you have a sudden sharp pain, there may be a speck of dust under the lens. If so, remove the lens, rinse and re-insert.

7. Take care with the edges of your lenses. If you drop a lens, pick it up by gently touching the centre of the lens with a finger wetted with wetting and soaking solution.
8. Do not swim or shower with your contact lenses in.

Look after your lenses and enjoy them !

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

Patsy Terry, Head of Optometry
Oxford Eye Hospital, West Wing (LG1)
Version 1, January 2011
Review, January 2014
John Radcliffe Hospital
Oxford OX3 9DU
www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/patientinformation