



User manual
living skin[™]

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This symbol signifies important information and is used throughout the manual.

Thank you for purchasing a livingskin™ passive functional prosthesis or prosthetic covering. The following information will help you maintain and care for your new prosthesis. Please read this information carefully and call us with any question or concerns.

Putting on your Prosthesis

To put on your prosthesis, apply a thin layer of the supplied water-based lubricant (e.g. surgilube or any other OTC water-based lubricant) to the appropriate area. Gently push or pull the prosthesis into place making sure all air has escaped. Pulling the prosthesis from one point can tear the silicone. If the prosthesis slides or rotates, too much lubricant was used. There is a 'trial and error' factor you will experience.



Use only a water-based lubricant, **never** products such as Vaseline®, or oils that may damage the silicone (see "Prosthesis Care"). Hard socket prostheses do not usually require lubrication.

Removing your Prosthesis

To remove your prosthesis, pinch the open end, allowing air to enter and thus breaking the suction, and slowly pull it off. For a hand prosthesis, never remove by pulling the fingers. Note pinching the prosthesis during removal may cause stretching and damage to the silicone. It may be necessary to repeat the pinch and pull if suction is not broken. Allowing water to enter the pinched area can assist in the removal. You may find the easiest way to take the prosthesis off is under warm flowing water. For hard socket prostheses, inserting a finger or simply wiggling while gently pulling the prosthesis is usually sufficient to remove the prosthesis.



If you have received a **livingskin™** covering for a prosthesis, please check with your prosthetist for correct donning and doffing of the cover.

Using the Armature

If an armature (metal rods inside the prosthesis to allow positioning) is included in the finger(s) of your prosthesis, always bend the armature at the knuckle or finger joint closest to the palm only. Never bend the armature at the fingernail, which can easily result in the end of the armature puncturing the surface of the prosthesis. If this happens, contact us to schedule a repair. NOTE: Armatures are not for constant positioning. Frequently bending the wires will lead them to snap, and this cannot be repaired.

Access to Battery or Switch

On a myoelectric arm cover, before rolling down the cover to charge the battery, spray the outside with rubbing alcohol. This will make it easier to pull the cover against itself, and will prevent damage that may be caused by friction.

Nails

Acrylic finger or toe nails may be polished as usual. Use only non-acetone nail polish remover. Silicone nails should not be polished.

Prosthetic Adhesive

Prosthetic adhesive and remover are available upon request to help don the prosthesis. The adhesive should be applied to the proximal edge of the device **and** to the skin, and allowed to dry. Once contact is made between the adhesive on the skin and the prosthesis a strong bond will be created. To remove the prosthesis, wet a Q-tip with the remover and roll the Q-tip at the edge of the device, working it off the skin. If remover is not available, use a soapy Q-tip. See the section on 'Prosthesis care' for information on suitable soaps. Please do an allergy test on non-sensitive skin with the adhesive before use; sensitive formulas can be supplied if a skin reaction occurs.

Prosthesis Care

Wearers of a passive functional prosthesis should wash their prosthesis every day. If you have a livingskin™ custom covering for a prosthesis, you should wash the outside regularly, taking care not to allow water inside. Use warm water and plain soap, clean inside and out. A small soft nail brush may be used with extreme care. **Caution:** Some soaps contain additives such as oil, perfumes, glycerin or aloe and should be avoided. Clean the prosthesis with medical rubbing alcohol twice a week to help kill bacteria and prevent mold.

Body perspiration contains oils which can accumulate and damage the prosthesis if not removed by proper cleaning. Failure to keep your prosthesis clean as instructed above will void the warranty.



Never wear your prosthesis overnight. Continual use may cause skin irritation. Never wear your prosthesis over unhealed cuts or sores.



Avoid all oils and oily substances. Many hair and body products contain oils and should be used only when you are not wearing the prosthesis. Exposure to oils and oily substances will make the prosthesis look shiny. Do not use oil control cleansers to manage shine - these are abrasive and will add to the shiny look of the device.



Don't bathe or shower in your prosthesis. Your prosthesis should be washed daily inside and out. It needs to be dried properly once you have washed it – leaving it damp or moist increases the chance of mold forming, which cannot be removed or repaired. After washing, pat the prosthesis dry with a clean cloth. You can also use Isopropyl Alcohol or rubbing alcohol in a spray bottle - thoroughly spray inside and outside to wick away any excess water left on the device. Pat the device dry with a clean cloth after spraying, and the rest will evaporate.



Use of oil-based lubricants can destroy the prosthesis and will void the warranty. If you need to apply oil or lotion to your skin, wait at least 30 minutes for it to be completely absorbed before putting your prosthesis on.

If you wish to wear gloves, a silk or smooth fabric lined glove will be much easier to put on and take off.

Some substances to avoid due to staining possibilities are:

- blue Woolite®
- dyed or colored shoes
- permanent markers
- some pens and inks (newspaper ink will not stain)
- clothes dye
- unwashed blue jeans and fabrics
- bleach
- chronic exposure to cigar and cigarette smoke
- carbon paper
- “carbonless” carbon paper

If you wish to wear jewelry, rings must be a pure and high grade metal such as silver and gold, and leathers and fabrics for covering wrist seams should not be products that risk bleeding dyes.

If your prosthesis is stained, quickly wash it with plain soap and water and then rub with cleaning alcohol. If the stain does not come out, or if you damage your prosthesis in any way, please follow these steps:

- If you received your prosthesis directly from Touch Bionics, please contact our office to schedule an evaluation for repair. Please refer to the back page for contact information.
- If you received your prosthesis from a practitioner in your community, ask your practitioner to contact our office.

In most cases we can repair the damage, rendering it almost undetectable. Never try to fix the prosthesis yourself. **Gluing or attempting to repair your prosthesis will void the warranty.**

General safety, warnings and precautions

- Users must comply with local regulations on the operation of automobiles, aircraft, sailing vessels of any kind and any other motorized vehicle or device
- Do not use for extreme activities that may cause injury to a natural hand e.g. rock climbing
- Do not expose to high temperatures
- Do not expose to flames

Warranty

LivingSkin™ passive/match devices will be covered for one year under Touch Care for manufacturing related issues. If a device is returned for repair during the period it is covered under Touch Care, Touch Bionics will repair the device at no charge.



Please note that general wear and tear of the prosthesis is not covered by the warranty.



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