How to Donn an Above Knee Seal-In Suction Prosthesis



Step 1 Step 2 Step 3 Step 4 Step 6 Step 8

Donning a Liner

Step 1: Roll the liner completely inside out.

Step 2: Place the inside surface of the liner flat against the end of your residual limb.

- There should be no space between the end of the limb and the inside of the liner.



Liner

Step 3: Roll the liner onto the residual limb.

- Check that there are no folds or air trapped between the liner and your skin.
- The manufacturer decal or writing is typically lined up in the front of your limb.
- Try to avoid pulling the liner. Tension on the liner next to the skin can result in irritation or blisters.

Step 4: Spray liner and/or socket generously with alcohol/water.

- This will reduce surface friction between your liner and socket and allow you to sit all the way down into the socket.

Donning the Socket

Step 5: Remove or partially unscrew the suction valve plug.

Step 6: Push your residual limb into the socket or step into the prosthesis until it is secure and your residual limb reaches the bottom of the socket.Make sure your socket is rotated appropriately and your toe out is as expected.



Diagnostic



Definitive

Step 7: Tighten the suction valve.

Step 8: Stand into the socket in an effort to remove any remaining air.

- If you have a manual expulsion valve you will need to push the valve to remove the remaining air.

Step 9: Make sure your residual limb reaches the bottom of the socket and a seal has been achieved.

- Do not wear your prosthesis if your limb cannot reach the bottom of the socket. You will develop a water blister on the bottom of your limb.

Troubleshooting

- Check your skin regularly for signs of pressure points, skin irritation or unusual redness. It could be a sign of a serious problem. Contact your prosthetist as soon as possible to troubleshoot the problem however; you may be asked to schedule an appointment in order to evaluate and rectify the issue.
- If you can hear or feel air movement or a lack of a suction seal contact your prosthetist.
- If you develop a water blister on the bottom of your limb, first contact your prosthetist. You ensure your liner is on appropriately and the limb is all the way down in the socket.
    - You may need to add an end pad to fill the void in the bottom of the socket. Contact your prosthetist if you do not have a distal end pad.
    - If you cannot get all the way down in the socket, your residual limb has most likely become swollen. Be sure you are wearing your shrinker at all times when you are not wearing your prosthesis to reduce or manage residual limb edema.
    - A poor diet or high salt intake can also cause residual limb edema.
- If you are not sure if you are all down in your socket you can use Play-Doh to determine contact on the bottom of your limb.
    - Roll up a ball of Play-Doh, place it in the bottom of the socket and see if your limb flattens the Play-Doh upon standing.
- Unscented lotion (ask your prosthetist) may be used to reduce friction over bony areas.
- Be sure to clean all supplies that touch your skin regularly. A lack of regular supply cleaning can result in itchy skin or rash development.
- Wash any part of the prosthesis that makes contact with the skin (liners, socks, inside of the socket, etc.) every day with a mild soap and warm water and allow plenty of time to dry. Follow manufacturer's instructions for care. Unless specifically instructed, do not use talcum powder and anything containing alcohol or unknown substances.
- If your socket is too big, too small, or does not seal see your prosthetist. He or she can show you how to gauge when your socket fits correctly. Your goal is a comfortably snug fit with a suction seal.
- If your prosthesis begins to rotate after increased activity this is a sign that your socket may have become loose. Contact your prosthetist for adjustments.
- Make sure your shoe height is correct for your prosthesis. A misalignment can put a strain on your residual limb and surrounding joints. A shoe with a higher or lower heel height can change the alignment of the prosthesis. You should wear shoes with the same heel height your prosthesis was originally aligned with. Talk to your prosthetist should you wish to change shoes.
- Never sleep with your prosthesis or liner on. All items need to be removed at night to allow your limb and skin time to breathe.
- Over the next several weeks, months and years, you will continue to see your prosthetist as they will now be a part of your care team for life. As you become more active and time passes, there will be continuous changes in your limb and adjustments will need to be made in order to maintain an appropriate fit. Eventually your limb will change so much, usually due to atrophy (your muscles are no longer active so they begin to shrink), you will need a replacement socket. There is no set time frame when this may occur as everyone changes at different rates. There are many reasons for the need for a replacement socket which is why it is imperative to be consistent in following up with your prosthetist.

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Prosthetic Device Wearing Schedule

Days	Number of Hours	Number of Times Per Day
1	1	3
2	1 1/2	3
3	2	3
4	2 1/2	3
5	3	3
6	3 1/2	3
7	4	3

Guidelines

- When receiving your first prosthesis, a slow and gradual increase of wear time is required until you are able to tolerate wearing the prosthesis for most of the day.
- The above chart is a guide to increasing the wear time of the prosthesis. If you need to slow down the progress and duplicate days until your limb can tolerate wearing the prosthesis, that is perfectly fine to do so.
- Do not increase the wear time too quickly and wear the prosthesis longer than recommended. This can have adverse effects such as skin irritation, blisters or increased redness or soreness.
- Follow this schedule as your limb adjusts to being confined inside the prosthesis, giving your limb and skin time to adapt.
- Taking your prosthesis off and checking your skin frequently is required in order to examine your limb for any increased redness, blisters or other irritations, in which your prosthetist should be informed of immediately.
- If there is deep redness that does not go away after 20 minutes, or if you have any other signs of irritation; discontinue use of the prosthesis and schedule an appointment with your prosthetist.
- Use the prosthetic socks provided to accommodate any changes in volume (size of your limb) throughout the day. The number of socks you put on in the morning may not be what you need by the afternoon. It is good practice to carry several socks with you in case of volume change throughout the day.

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Above Knee Prosthetic Shrinkers

Follow the washing instructions provided by the manufacturer. You can hand wash daily with warm water or machine wash using the lowest permanent-press setting. It is highly recommended to use a mild soap and not launder with fabric softener, bleach or other additives. It is also recommended to alternate between your shrinkers daily or every couple of days. Wash and proper care usually restores your shrinkers' shape as wearing a shrinker for long durations can stretch it out.



Shrinkers

Above Knee Prosthetic Socks

A sufficient supply of socks should be maintained to allow clean socks to be worn daily and to allow several days after washing and before wearing. Wear clean socks and/or sheaths every day. On hot and humid days, you may want to change your socks throughout the day depending on how much you perspire. Do not wear socks several days without washing them as it is not good for your skin or your prosthetic socks.



Socks

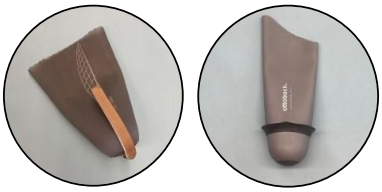
Most socks require a machine wash in warm water with mild soap and tumble dry low. Bleach only if needed and do not use fabric softener. Most can also be hand washed in the same manner. Some socks have specific care instructions so please follow the washing instructions provided by the manufacturer. Wearing a sock stretches it and perspiration can harden it. Washing and proper care restore the socks shape and softens it.

Above Knee Prosthetic Liners

Proper hygiene is extremely important when using a prosthetic liner. The liner should be cleaned at the end of each day. You will be provided two liners so one can be worn and one could be washed.

Daily Cleaning:

- Remove liner and turn inside out
- Use a mild soap such as Dove or Dial and warm water to wash the liner by hand or with a lint free cloth.
- Take special care to rinse all soap residue from your liner.



Liners

Perspiration

It is not uncommon for new liner wearers to experience excessive perspiration for the first several weeks of use. Please follow the wear schedule provided to you by your prosthetist for both the liner as well as the prosthesis. This gradual increase in wear time for the device will also allow your skin to grow accustomed to the materials being worn. Perspiration will tend to resolve itself after several weeks of consistent wear. If sweating becomes an issue, discuss this with your prosthetist as there are options that might help in the reduction of perspiration such as antiperspirant.

If you find yourself sweating often, it is recommended to remove your liner and prosthesis and wipe down both the limb and the liner, then reapply. Excessive sweat or moisture between the liner and your limb can affect the suspension of your prosthesis.

Warranty

Typical warranty for manufacturers defects are:

- Liners - 6 months
- Shrinkers - 3 months
- For warranty on specific items, see your prosthetist

Custom Fabricated Device Warranty

Your custom fabricated prosthetic/orthotic device has a warranty of 90 days from the date provided to ensure proper alignment, proper fit, and function; corresponding with your individual measurements and anatomical conditions at the time of measurement.

Custom Fit Prefabricated Device Warranty

Your custom fit prosthetic/orthotic device or item has a warranty of 60 days from the date provided to ensure appropriate size, fit and function after the time of delivery.

General Information Regarding Your Warranty

Once a device is delivered, it is not eligible for a money-back warranty due the health risks involved in the reuse of prosthetic and orthotic devices.

This warranty does not apply to items or parts that are not manufactured by Great Steps Orthotics & Prosthetics. Items and parts that are manufactured by outside companies or vendors are warranted for the length of the time determined by that manufacturer. These include, but are not limited to; components or parts not manufactured by Great Steps that are used in the assembly of a device custom made by Great Steps; items that are custom made by other companies but supplied to the patient by Great Steps, or items that are manufactured by other companies, but are fit or custom fit to the patient by Great Steps.

The warranty is immediately void if:

- The device has been adjusted, repaired or altered by anyone other than an active employee of Great Steps.
- The device or any of its parts have been subjected to misuse, negligence or accident.
- The patient fails to fulfill **“Patient Responsibilities”** as outlined below.

The warranty does not cover prosthetic skin coverings, adjustments needed due to anatomical or other medical changes, nor does it cover accessories, such as prosthetic socks, straps, etc.

Patient Responsibility

- Keep all scheduled appointments with your prosthetist when possible.

- Inform your prosthetist of any change in your overall health which may affect the wearing or functioning of the orthosis or prosthesis.

- Within thirty (30) days after the item is delivered, inform your prosthetist if any adjustments are needed. Failure to do so will constitute a waiver by the patient of any claim regarding said item.