

# Common Questions After Amputation

It's only natural to have a lot of questions following amputation surgery. Here are answers to a few common ones to get you started.

## MY RESIDUAL LIMB IS STILL HEALING FROM SURGERY AND SOMETHING HAS CHANGED. WHEN SHOULD I LET MY DOCTOR KNOW?

Call your healthcare provider right away or seek immediate medical care if you notice any of the following:

- Skin separation along the surgical scar
- A bad smell from the scar or the entire limb
- The area around the scar is warm or hot, or becomes red or swollen
- Pus or yellow drainage from the scar, or thick discharge that is brownish gray
- A sudden increase in pain or severe tenderness in the limb
- Fever of 100.4° F (38.0°C) or higher, or as directed by your healthcare provider

## HOW SOON AFTER MY AMPUTATION WILL I BE ABLE TO WALK?

This will vary depending on how quickly you heal, your overall health, and the time it may take you to reach milestones needed to work up to walking.

## WILL IT HURT TO WALK WITH MY PROSTHESIS?

No. Your prosthetist will suggest a break-in schedule, so you can become accustomed to your prosthesis without experiencing discomfort. If you are in pain, call your prosthetist.



For more resources on adjusting to life with limb loss, scan the code or visit [HangerClinic.com/LimbLoss](https://HangerClinic.com/LimbLoss).

\* Hanger Clinic: **EmpoweredCare**

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## WHAT KIND OF SHOES WILL I BE ABLE TO WEAR WITH MY PROSTHESIS?

Almost any shoe can be used with your prosthesis. Be sure to bring the shoes you wear most often to your fitting appointment. Athletic shoes are often recommended since they are lightweight and usually have soles that prevent slipping. Some prosthetic feet adjust at the ankle, allowing you to wear shoes with heels that vary in height.

## WILL I BE ABLE TO TAKE A SHOWER WITH MY PROSTHESIS ON?

No, not unless it was designed specifically for swimming or bathing.

## WILL I BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO MY FAVORITE SPORTS WITH MY PROSTHESIS?

Most people can resume sports and activities using their prosthesis. Some sports, such as swimming and sprinting, require specially designed limbs. There are also adaptive sports that are modified for people with disabilities.

We encourage you to discuss your specific athletic needs with your prosthetist early in the process and again as they change over the course of your life.

## HOW LONG SHOULD MY PROSTHESIS LAST?

The socket and components are designed to last from two to four years, depending on how aggressively they are used. That said, most sockets are replaced due to changes in the residual limb rather than wear and tear.



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