



User Manual

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livingskin<sup>™</sup>

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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. Contact your prosthetist with any question or concerns.

## 1.0 Putting on your Prosthesis

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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.

For finger devices, pinch your skin at the edge of device to create a channel for air to enter or escape.

For hand devices, secure the device between your knees for ease of donning, do not tug or pull the wrist section.



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

## 2.0 Removing your Prosthesis

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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: tugging or pulling from one area will cause stretching of your device. 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 myoelectric prosthesis, please check with your prosthetist for correct donning and doffing of the cover.

### 3.0 Using the Armature

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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 your prosthetist 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.

### 4.0 Access to Battery or Switch

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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.

### 5.0 Nails

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

### 6.0 Prosthetic Adhesive

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Prosthetic adhesive and remover are available upon request to help secure 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.

## 7.0 Prosthesis Care

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Wearers of a passive functional prosthesis should wash their prosthesis every day. If you have a living-skin™ custom covering for a prosthesis, you should wash the outside regularly, taking care not to allow water inside. Use warm water and soap, clean inside and out. It is important to not use soaps which contain any additives or perfumes such as aloe or vitamin E. Recommended soap is Dawn original formula or Sunlight dish detergent. 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 inside and outside of your device with 70-90% isopropyl alcohol after every use.

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.**



**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.](#)

## 8.0 General safety, warnings and precautions

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- 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

## 9.0 Warranty

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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.



**Inappropriate use resulting in damage to the prosthesis is not covered by the warranty.**

**Össur Americas**

27051 Towne Centre Drive  
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610, USA  
Tel: +1 (949) 382 3883  
Tel: +1 800 233 6263  
Fax: +1 800 831 3160  
ossurusa@ossur.com

**Össur Canada**

2150 – 6900 Graybar Road  
Richmond, BC  
V6W 0A5 , Canada  
Tel: +1 604 241 8152  
Fax: +1 866 441 3880

**Össur Europe BV**

De Schakel 70  
5651 GH Eindhoven  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +800 3539 3668  
Tel: +31 499 462840  
Fax: +31 499 462841  
info-europe@ossur.com

**Össur Deutschland GmbH**

Augustinusstrasse 11A  
50226 Frechen  
Deutschland  
Tel: +49 (0) 2234 6039 102  
Fax: +49 (0) 2234 6039 101  
info-deutschland@ossur.com

**Össur Nordic**

P.O. Box 67  
751 03 Uppsala, Sweden  
Tel: +46 1818 2200  
Fax: +46 1818 2218  
info@ossur.com

**Össur Iberia S.L.U**

Calle Caléndula, 93 -  
Miniparc III  
Edificio E, Despacho M18  
28109 El Soto de la Moraleja,  
Alcobendas  
Madrid – España  
Tel: 00 800 3539 3668  
Fax: 00 800 3539 3299  
orders.spain@ossur.com  
orders.portugal@ossur.com

**Össur France**

73 rue de la Tour  
B.P. 78  
42002 Saint-Etienne Cedex 1  
France  
Tél. : +31 499 462 840  
00800 35 39 36 68 (numéro vert)  
Fax : +31 499 462 841  
00800 35 39 32 99  
orders.france@ossur.com

**Össur UK Ltd**

Unit No 1  
S:Park  
Hamilton Road  
Stockport SK1 2AE, UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 8450 065 065  
Fax: +44 (0)161 475 6321  
ossuruk@ossur.com

**Össur Europe BV – Italy**

Via Baroaldi, 29  
40054 Budrio, Italy  
Tel: +39 05169 20852  
Fax: +39 05169 22977  
orders.italy@ossur.com

**Össur APAC**

2F, W16 B  
No. 1801 Hongmei Road  
200233, Shanghai, China  
Tel: +86 21 6127 1707  
Fax: +86 21 6127 1799  
asia@ossur.com

**Össur Australia**

26 Ross Street,  
North Parramatta  
NSW 2151 Australia  
Tel: +61 2 88382800  
Fax: +61 2 96305310  
infosydney@ossur.com

**Össur hf.**

Grjótháls 1-5  
110 Reykjavík  
Iceland

