

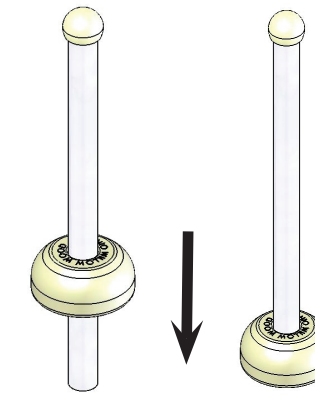
## Possible Alpha Issues

Problem	Probable Cause	Solution
Locking liner is "pistoning" up and down in your socket.	Your limb may have shrunk.	Ask your prosthetist about the use of Alpha Volume Management Pads. If the pistoning continues, or if you have questions about the proper use of the pads, contact your prosthetist.
Top edge of liner is rolling down your leg.	Liner is possibly too short or too tight.	Contact your prosthetist.
Heavy sweating (if you have just recently started wearing the Alpha).	Your body has not yet adjusted to the liner.	If you are still sweating after several weeks of Alpha use, contact your prosthetist. Also, some amputees have found that it helps to apply moderate amounts of unscented alum-based antiperspirant to the residual limb before putting on the Alpha Liner. Always follow your prosthetist's instructions and the directions on the product label. Note: non-alum-based products may damage the gel.
Heavy sweating (if you had been wearing the Alpha for a long time without sweating, and suddenly started sweating again).	Air is getting between the liner and the residual limb, possibly because your limb has shrunk, or there is a hole in the liner.	Ask your prosthetist about the use of Alpha Volume Management Pads. If the sweating continues, or if you have questions about the proper use of the pads, contact your prosthetist.
Skin irritation all over your residual limb.	Not cleaning or disinfecting your liner correctly.	Make sure that you are following the proper cleaning, rinsing, and disinfecting procedures outlined in this pamphlet.
	Use of a harsh or irritating lotion, cream, powder, or soap.	Have you recently started using a different cleaning product? (For some amputees, anti-bacterial soap has caused skin irritations.) Have you recently started using any products that contain hydrocarbon oils or animal fat/oils? If so, discontinue using the product.
	Washing the limb too frequently.	Washing the limb more than once per day can result in increased levels of skin irritation.
	Fungal and/or bacterial infection of the limb and liner.	Contact your prosthetist. You may also need to contact a dermatologist.
	The liner or the socket is loose, possibly because your limb has shrunk.	Ask your prosthetist about the use of Alpha Volume Management Pads. If the skin irritation continues, or if you have questions about the proper use of the pads, contact your prosthetist.
Skin irritation along the top edge of your liner.	The liner is being pulled onto the limb instead of being rolled onto the limb, or the liner is too tight.	Refer to the instructions in this pamphlet for putting on your liner. If the problem continues, contact your prosthetist.
Open wounds and non-intact skin.	Contact your prosthetist immediately.	Always follow your prosthetist's directions, and never use an Alpha in direct contact with open sores or non-intact skin. If the Alpha Liner must be worn over open sores or non-intact skin, wear a bandage or other appropriate covering over the wound to prevent direct contact between the wound and the Alpha Liner

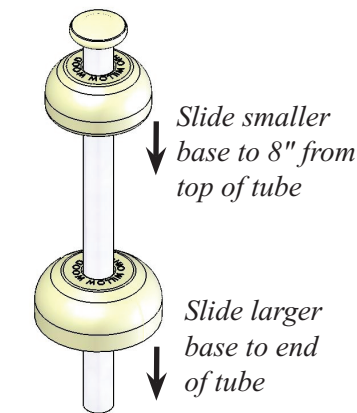
## Converting an Alpha Shipping Stand to a Drying Stand

For all liner sizes, the Shipping Stand is also used as a Drying Stand.

To convert the Shipping Stand to a Drying Stand, slide the plastic base down to the end of the tube.



For the Large Plus and Extra Large sizes, slide the larger plastic base to the end of the tube, then slide the smaller plastic base about 8" from the top of the tube.



If you wish to have a shorter Drying Stand to accommodate shorter liners, simply trim the tube to the desired length and slide the base to the end of the tube.

Failure to follow Ohio Willow Wood instructions will void the warranty.

Since Ohio Willow Wood believes that Alpha® Liners must be fit and dispensed by a qualified professional, please understand that Ohio Willow Wood will not ship Alpha® Liners directly to an amputee's home.

# Important Information FOR AMPUTEES Concerning the Alpha® Liner



Thank you for using the Alpha® Liner. In order to ensure the highest level of comfort and longest possible life from your Alpha® Liner, please take the following steps:

- **Read** the pamphlet and follow the directions carefully.
- **Inspect** your Alpha® Liners after each day of use. Unusual wear of the fabric or gel may indicate changes in the prosthetic fit. In order to preserve the warranty, be sure to contact your prosthetist immediately if you notice unusual wear.
- **Consult** this pamphlet for suggested solutions to common issues related to Alpha® use.
- **Contact** your prosthetist if you have any questions about your Alpha® Liners.

**WARNING FOR LOCKING LINER USERS:** Each of your Locking Liners should have its own pin, securely fastened to the liner by your prosthetist. If you do not check the locking pin each time you put on your prosthesis to make sure that the pin is still secure, the pin could come out of the liner, resulting in the potential for you to fall and injure yourself.



**OHIO WILLOW WOOD®**  
*free the body...free the spirit*  
 15441 Scioto Darby Road  
 Mt. Sterling, Ohio 43143 USA  
 Phone: 740.869.3377 or 800.848.4930  
 Fax: 740.869.4374  
<http://www.owwco.com>

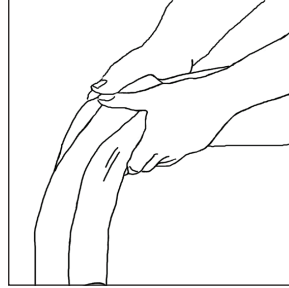


Ohio Willow Wood Company B.V.  
 Keizersgracht 62/64  
 1015 CS Amsterdam  
 The Netherlands



## Putting On Your Liner

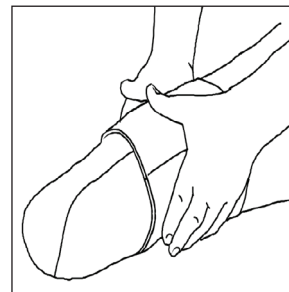
Before putting on your liner, make sure that your limb is clean, dry, and free of soap residue. Cover open wounds and non-intact skin with a gauze patch. **Do not apply any type of lotion or powder to the residual limb or to the Alpha Liner, as these products could damage the liner.**



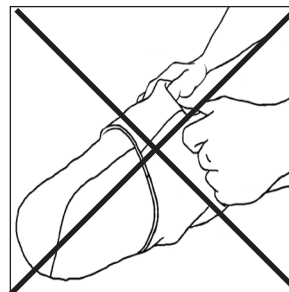
Invert the liner so that the gel side is facing out, and place the end of the liner against the end of your limb. If using a Locking Liner, center the pin attachment on the bottom of your limb.

For a BK liner, the Alpha logo and serial number should be in the front.

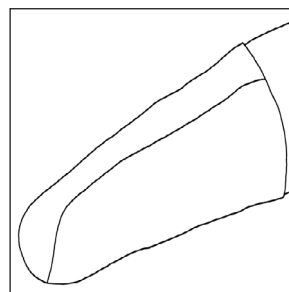
For an AK liner, the logo should be on the lateral side (outside).



Carefully roll the liner up onto your residual limb with the gel side against the skin. For the most comfort, position the seams away from any sensitive areas or bony prominences.



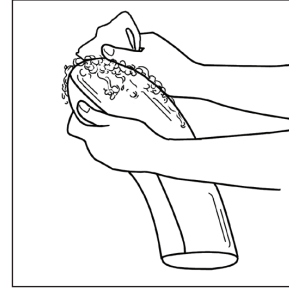
**DO NOT PULL** the liner onto the limb. Pulling the liner may stretch the skin and result in an uncomfortable fit.



Make sure that there are no wrinkles or air pockets between the limb and the liner, and then put on your prosthesis.

## Daily Cleaning

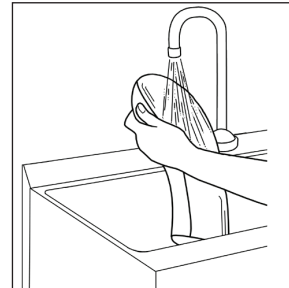
**Proper hygiene is extremely important when using an Alpha Liner. The liner must be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day of wear and disinfected once each week. Ohio Willow Wood highly recommends having two Alpha Liners so that you can wear one while cleaning and drying the other.**



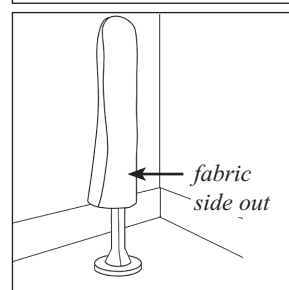
With the gel side of the liner facing out, clean the liner thoroughly with lukewarm tap water and a body soap that does not irritate your skin. Apply the soap with a clean, soft cloth or sponge.

**Note: Do not scrub the Alpha Liner. Scrubbing can roughen the surface of the liner, which can then irritate the skin.**

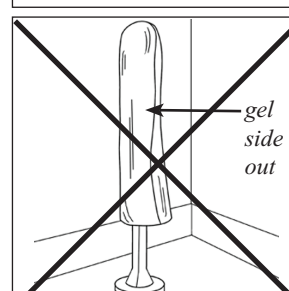
Rinse **all** the soap residue from the liner with water.



Dry the gel with a clean, lint-free cloth.



Place the liner, **fabric side out**, on the drying stand. Clean your limb with soap and rinse well.

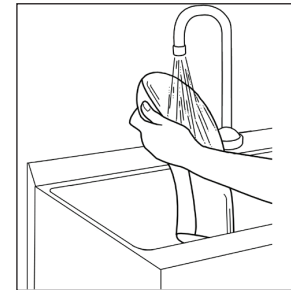


**CAUTION: Drying the liner with the gel side out will damage the liner.**

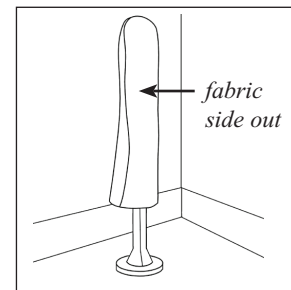
## Weekly Disinfecting



Place a small amount of ethyl or isopropyl alcohol on a soft, clean cloth. Lightly wipe the gel side of the liner with the cloth for two minutes.



Rinse the alcohol from the liner with water.



Place the liner, fabric side out, on the drying stand.

**Note: Do not soak the liner in the ethyl or isopropyl alcohol. Extended contact with large amounts of ethyl or isopropyl alcohol will stiffen the liner.**

## Storing the Liner

When the liner is not being worn, it should be stored fabric side out in a cool, dry place. If the liner will not be used for an extended period, cover the dry liner with a clean plastic bag.

## Perspiration

If you engage in an activity that could result in excessive perspiration, periodically remove the liner and dry off the liner and residual limb to prevent slippage of the liner on the limb.

## What you should know about MANAGING VOLUME LOSS

It is completely normal for the volume of your limb to change during the day. When your limb shrinks, the socket no longer fits as snugly as it should. As a result, your socket may slip down your leg, and your limb may move around inside of your socket, causing your liner to wear out prematurely.

**The best way to deal with this normal day-to-day shrinkage is to apply Alpha Volume Management Pads to the areas where your limb has shrunk.** Be sure to follow the instructions included with the pads. If you do not have a set of Alpha Volume Management Pads, or if you have any question about how to use the pads, please contact your prosthetist.

Sometimes when your limb shrinks, you will feel discomfort on your limb; however, the area where you feel discomfort is usually **not** the area where the limb has shrunk. **A pad will only help if it is placed onto the area where volume has been lost.** For example, if you are a BK amputee, the area where you will most likely lose volume is the area at the back of your leg, even though you may feel discomfort at the front of your leg.

