



# Telephone Topics

## Getting A Grip On Hands-Free Communication

(NAPSA)—Consumers have a variety of options when it comes to using a wireless phone to stay in touch.

Increasingly, however, efforts are underway to discourage drivers from touching their wireless phone while driving. That's where hands-free communication comes in.

With a number of styles and features available, consumers can find selecting the hands-free device that best fits their needs a difficult task.

To ease the process of going hands-free, here are a few tips from a leading consumer electronics retailer.

- If you already have a phone, see if it has a 2.5mm headset jack. The jack is the small hole where the wire that connects the phone to the headset is inserted.

If the phone does not have such a jack, it is possible to purchase an adapter. However, different phones require different types of adapters. Make sure you find one that's compatible with your phone.

- Figure out how and where you use your wireless phone the most. That will help to determine what kind of wireless device you will need.



**New technology is providing consumers with a growing number of options for hands-free wireless communication.**

For the most part, hands-free devices fall into two categories. The first type is an integrated earpiece which fits in the outer ear and has a built in microphone. These devices usually range from \$19.99 to \$39.99 and can be used in nearly any kind of situation.

The second type combines an earpiece with a microphone on a short boom. Prices for this type of device usually range from \$19.99 to \$29.99.

- Consumers who find earphones uncomfortable while driving may want to consider using speakerphone. Speakerphone kits can be used with most phones, but their use is limited to inside a car.

These devices plug into a car's cigarette lighter.

In addition to not needing an earphone, speakerphones usually recharge a wireless phone's battery while the phone is in use. Prices for speakerphone conversion kits usually start at about \$59.

Some newer handsets offer a built-in speakerphone capability.

- There are other handsfree options that may be available by upgrading a wireless phone.

For example, adding a voice recognition feature lets a consumer dial a phone number simply by speaking it into the handset.

According to Stewart Asimus, senior vice president and general manager of RadioShack's Connecting People strategic business unit, "The good news is that there are hands-free options available to fit just about any lifestyle and budget."

Said Asimus, "With locations in every neighborhood in America, RadioShack is positioned to help consumers select the wireless device that best fits their needs."

RadioShack is the nation's largest consumer electronics retailer, offering both on- and off-line shopping. To learn more, visit the site at [www.radioshack.com](http://www.radioshack.com).