



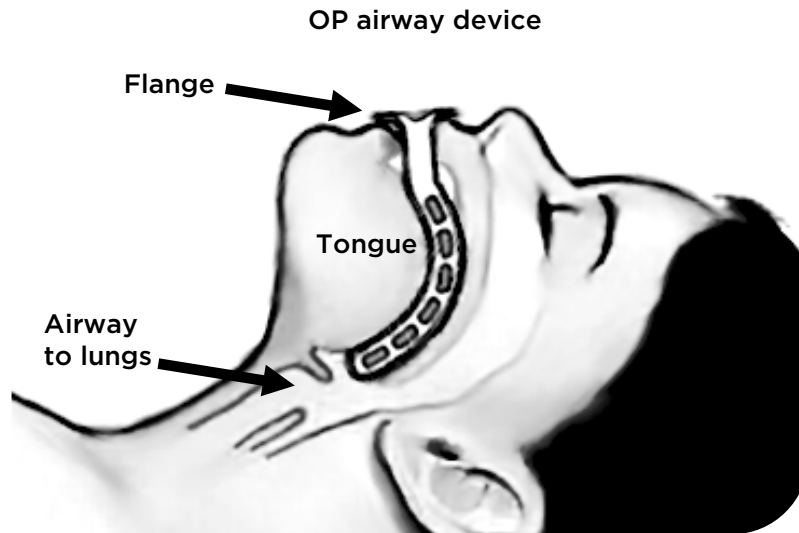
How to Use an Oropharyngeal (OP) Airway

For a Breathing Emergency

An oropharyngeal airway is a device to move the tongue out of the way during resuscitation.

What is an oropharyngeal (OP) airway?

It is a hard plastic device placed in the mouth to move the tongue away from the back of the throat and open the upper airway.



Oropharyngeal airway devices are curved to fit the throat and must be long enough to reach the airway leading to the lungs.

When is an OP airway used?

Use the device in a breathing emergency when your child has stopped breathing, is unconscious, and you need to breathe for them. The device helps keep the upper airway open when you are using bag/mask ventilation for resuscitation.

To Learn More

- Respiratory Care
206-987-2258
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

How do I insert the OP Airway?

Follow these steps to insert the device.

1. Clean your hands.

Wash with warm soapy water and /or hand sanitizer and put on gloves.

2. Measure airway device for correct size.

OP airways come in many sizes. To find the best size for your child, trace an imaginary line on one side of the face from one corner of child's mouth to the earlobe. Place the device on child's face along this line. The OP airway is the correct length if it reaches from the corner of mouth to the earlobe.

3. Open child's mouth using the "crossed" or "scissors" finger technique.

4. Insert the OP airway. There are 2 ways to do this:

Without a tongue blade

Insert the OP airway without pushing the tongue back. Put the OP airway in child's mouth upside down so the tip of the device is facing the roof of the mouth. As the device is inserted, rotate 180 degrees until the flange comes to rest on the child's lips and/or teeth.

OR

With a tongue blade

Using a tongue blade to press down on the tongue, insert the OP airway with the curve facing down following the natural curve of the throat.

Caution:

If child begins to regain consciousness and retch or gag, remove the OP airway at once!