

Wheelchair

Buying Guide

Wheelchairs are a cost-effective solution to many mobility issues, helping you to get outside and keep active and social. Compact, lightweight and easy to control, there's a wheelchair suitable for everyone, but before you make your choice ask yourself the following questions to ensure you're getting the best care possible.

What types of Wheelchair are there to choose from?

There are two main types of wheelchair available on the market – transit and self-propelled wheelchairs.

Transit wheelchairs have been designed to transport users over short distances, with handles fitted onto the back for an attendant or carer to take control of pushing the chair.

Self-propelled wheelchairs are operated by the user, and are fitted with large wheels and handles which allow the chair to be manoeuvred and turned.

Both transit and self-propelled wheelchairs are ideal for packing away for storage and are easy to transport, great for taking with you on days out or holidays.

Bariatric chairs are also available for larger users, while smaller, paediatric chairs have been designed for use by children.



What do I need to consider when buying a Wheelchair?

When answering this question you'll need to consider whether you'll be using your wheelchair inside or outdoors. This is because certain models of chair are fitted with tyres better suited to outdoor terrain, enabling you to get about without a struggle.



You'll also need to consider whether your chosen chair is easy to fold and transport, especially if you intend on taking it away with you in the car or if you're limited when it comes to storage space.

Plus, with certain models of chair able to be adjusted to fit your requirements, you'll need to assess whether your selection can

What type of Wheelchair is right for me?

This all depends on how you plan to use your wheelchair. If you're able to manually push yourself, and are looking for a way to stay independent, then a self-propelled chair would be best.

However, if you require the help of an attendant or carer then a transit chair would be ideal. The choice between the two is dependent on your circumstances.

What else might I need when buying a Wheelchair?

When purchasing a wheelchair you may also want to consider suitable accessories to help keep you as comfortable as possible while out and about.

Cushions and chair pads can give you added support, especially if you're sitting for long periods of time, while storage bags will keep your personal belongings safe and within reaching distance.

If you use a stick/cane you may also want to buy a holder, handy for those moments when you want to take a walk.