

How to Use and Care for Your Wheelchair

Your doctor has ordered a wheelchair for your health and well-being. Proper use of the wheelchair will assure your safety and comfort.

Equipment Preparation

1. Unfold wheelchair by pushing armrest away from one another until wheelchair seat is fully extended.
2. Engage the wheel locks.
3. For side transfer, remove the armrest by depressing the push bottom and lift up on the armrest.
4. Swing foot or leg rest away for entering the chair by pushing lever on side of wheelchair frame and allow the foot or leg rest to swing out of the way. Lift up and remove the foot or leg rest.
5. Grasp the arm(s) and slowly sit or slide into the wheelchair.
6. Replace armrest; align armrest with slot in wheelchair frame.
7. Replace the foot or leg rest. Align pins on wheelchair frame with the holes in the foot or leg rest.
Engage and swing the foot or leg rest back towards the front of the chair. The foot or leg rest will lock into position. Unfold leg rest or footrest and place feet on foot supports.
8. Release wheel locks.

9. Grasp hand rims and propel chair.
10. Apply wheel locks before exiting the wheelchair.

Care of Equipment

1. Clean upholstery, arm pads and foot or leg rest with warm soapy water.
2. Keep wheels and axles free from dirt, dust and hair.

Precautions

1. Never attempt to go up or down stairs without proper ramps.
2. Never attempt to go through doorways that are too narrow.
3. Always apply wheel locks when entering or exiting the wheelchair.
4. Always apply wheel locks when sitting in wheelchair while stationary.
5. Damage done to equipment by patient/caregiver outside normal wear will be the responsibility of the patient for the repairs.
6. For repairs or maintenance, contact your equipment provider.

Troubleshooting

If wheelchair will not roll, check to see if the wheel locks have been released.