



Considerations When Choosing a Manual Wheelchair



Manual wheelchairs come in different types for different bodies and preferences.

- Transport wheelchairs are lightweight and inexpensive. They are meant to be pushed by a companion and are ideal for occasional use and short trips.
- Tilt-in-space wheelchairs tilt and recline for repositioning and pressure relief.
- Rigid frame wheelchairs do not fold and provide more efficient performance.
- Pediatric wheelchairs are sized for children and may have features to accommodate growth.
- Bariatric wheelchairs are heavy-duty and appropriate for the broadest adults.
- Strollers/jogger-styled strollers are companion-push and come in adult and pediatric models.
- Ultralight wheelchairs are self-push and made from aluminum and titanium for active, full-time users.

Some wheelchair models blend these categories, such as a pediatric chair that can tilt in space. As with power wheelchairs, the accessories, weight, and size needed are usually determined during a seating evaluation with a physical therapist.

Below is a self-assessment to help you consider your needs and the models in our inventory. Keep in mind that the seat width needed by the individual is an essential consideration. To learn more than appears on our listings, we recommend searching the make and model on the internet for the manufacturer's information.

Manual Wheelchair Questions

1. Is the intended user a child or an adult?
 - Child
 - Adult
2. Do you currently use a manual wheelchair?
 - Yes (if known, please indicate type) _____
 - No (if no, skip to question # 10)
3. Is there a manufacturer sticker present?
 - Yes (make, model) _____
 - No

4. Why is your current manual wheelchair no longer usable for you (flat tires, too small/big, etc.)? _____
5. What did/didn't you like about your manual wheelchair? (Do you want to duplicate what you have or need additional features?)

6. Current wheelchair seat width?
Seat Width _____ inches
7. Current seat depth?
Seat Depth _____ inches
8. Current seat to floor height?
Seat to Floor _____ inches
9. Current seat surface to the top of back height?
Seat to Floor _____ inches
10. User's approximate height and weight?
Height _____ Weight _____
11. Do you want/need a folding or a rigid-frame wheelchair?
 Folding
 Rigid
12. Do you want/need a tilt and/or recline seating function?
 Tilt
 Recline
13. Do you have an armrest preference: swing-away, adjustable height?
 Swing-Away
 Adjustable Height
 None
14. Do you want/need a headrest?
 Yes

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No

15. Do you want/need a tray?

Yes

No

16. Do you want/need metal or coated push rims?

Metal

Coated

17. Do you want/need quick-release axles?

Yes

No

18. Do you have a leg rest preference: elevating, swing-away?

Elevating

Swing-Away

Fixed

19. Footrests-angle adjustable?

Yes

No

20. Do you want/need calf pads?

Yes

No

21. Do you want/need a seatbelt?

Yes

No

22. Do you want/need anti-tippers?

Yes

No

23. Do you prefer a tension adjustable or fixed padded back?

Tension Adjustable

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- Fixed Padded
24. Do you prefer push brakes or pull to lock?
- Push
 - Pull
 - No Preference
25. Do you prefer pneumatic or solid rear tires?
- Pneumatic
 - Solid
 - No Preference
26. Do you want/need a power-assist function?
- Yes
 - No
27. Do you want/need a transit tie-down option?
- Yes
 - No