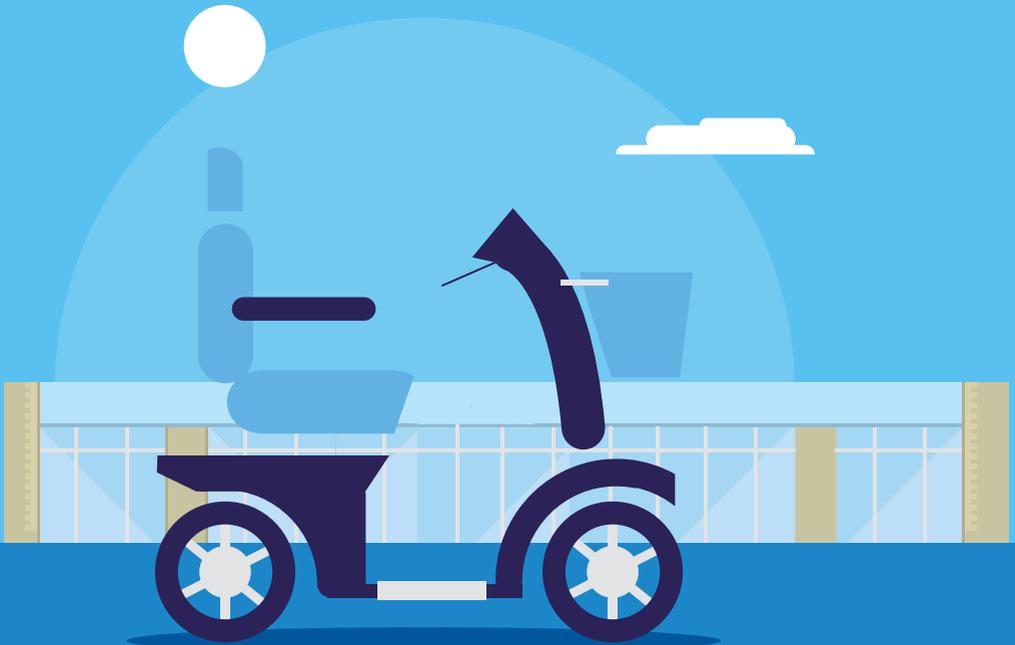


MOBILITY SCOOTER SAFETY GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs can provide more freedom and independence to many disabled and older people. They can help you get out and about, access shops and services and visit friends and family.

They are simple to use, easy to maintain and economical to run.

There is now a wide range available so it is vital for you to find the one that is most suitable for your needs.

Whilst mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs have many benefits, it's important to remember that some of them are quite powerful, heavy and could cause considerable damage to the user or to other people.

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DID YOU KNOW

If you ride a mobility scooter, you are responsible for your own and for other people's safety. Whether you ride on the pavement, footpath or road, you must follow the highway code.

MEDICAL ADVICE

- ✓ Check with your doctor to ensure you are fit enough to use a scooter or powered wheelchair.
- ✓ If you have a disability that will restrict your movement, a simple adaptation to the scooter may be all that's needed.
- ✓ If you wear glasses or contact lenses, make sure you wear them every time you drive and have your eyesight tested regularly.

We've put together the following guidelines to help you choose the right equipment and to help you use and enjoy it safely.

IMPORTANT BASIC ADVICE

- ✓ Make sure that you get a scooter or wheelchair which is appropriate for your particular needs, e.g. size, height, weight and restricted movement.
- ✓ Make sure you are familiar with all of the controls on your scooter before you use it to go out.
- ✓ Make sure the scooter is properly maintained. Have it thoroughly checked (the manufacturer's handbook will tell you how often to do this). A second-hand scooter may not have instructions or still be under warranty, so remember to ask about this if you are buying one.
- ✓ Keep the battery fully charged and get to know how far your scooter can go before it will need recharging.
- ✓ Remember that the distance you can travel will depend on the condition of the battery, the weight you have on the scooter and the kind of route you follow.



INSURANCE

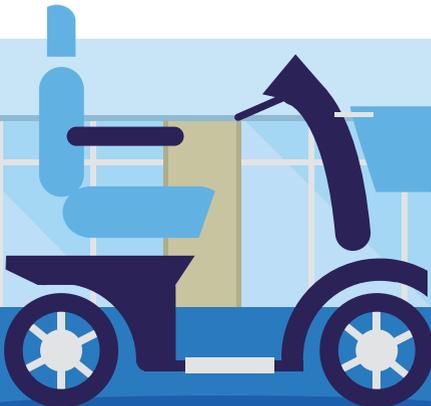
Although you don't have to have insurance by law, the Department for Transport strongly advise people to take out mobility scooter and powered wheelchair insurance to cover personal safety, other people's safety and the value of the vehicle.

MOBILITY SCOOTER INSURANCE FROM FISH INSURANCE

We know just how important your mobility scooter or powered wheelchair is to your daily life, that's why we have designed an insurance policy that not only gives you peace of mind but helps keeps you moving at home or abroad.

KEY BENEFITS

- ✓ Up to £2m Public Liability cover
- ✓ Accidental damage including fire and flood
- ✓ Theft and vandalism
- ✓ Get-you-home allowance in the event of loss or breakdown
- ✓ Hire of replacement scooter
- ✓ Personal accident



Fish Insurance has been providing specialist insurance in the UK for over 40 years.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS WITH MOBILITY EXTRA

- ✓ Our mobility Extra insurance is our enhanced policy which offers all the benefits of our Standard policy plus extended UK breakdown cover
- ✓ Taxi fare home (up to 10 miles) if you're unable access the recovery vehicle

To get a little friendly help from our experienced team call us on 0333 331 3776 or visit our website at fishinsurance.co.uk

To find out more about our mobility product visit fishinsurance.co.uk/products/mobility-scooter-insurance/

From only
£54*
per year

DEFINITIONS

Three types of wheelchair are defined in The Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988:

CLASS 1 Manual wheelchairs

These wheelchairs are not electrically powered. You use your arms to move the wheelchair, or you are pushed by another person.

CLASS 2 Powered wheelchairs and scooters

These are only suitable for riding on pavements or footpaths and have a top speed of 4 miles an hour (6km an hour).

CLASS 3 Scooters

These are suitable for riding on roads and have a top speed of 8 miles an hour (12km an hour). They must not weigh more than 150 kilograms without the driver and any load. These also have a switch to limit the top speed to 4 miles an hour (6km an hour) on pavements or footpaths.

A Class 3 vehicle is not legally defined as a motor vehicle and the user does not have to have a driving licence or take a driving test.

However, a Class 3 vehicle can only be used by a disabled person aged 14 or over, or by an able-bodied person who is demonstrating a vehicle before selling it, training a disabled user, or taking a vehicle to or from a place for maintenance or repair.

REGISTRATION

Class 1 and Class 2 wheelchairs and scooters do not have to be registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

However, you must register a Class 3 vehicle with the DVLA. There is no fee to pay and the vehicle does not need registration plates.

To register a Class 3 vehicle, complete form V55/4 for new vehicles, or V55/5 for used vehicles. You can get the forms from DVLA's online ordering service: www.gov.uk/dvlaforms

OUT AND ABOUT

“See and be seen! If you are using anything to protect you from the weather, make sure it does not restrict your vision. Wear fluorescent and reflective materials and have fluorescent and reflective markings on your scooter.”

- ✓ Remember to put your lights on to help other road users see you.
- ✓ Always remember to turn the scooter off when you get off.
- ✓ Remember which speed your scooter is set on.
- ✓ Don't drive your mobility scooter or powered wheelchair if you have been drinking or taking drugs.
- ✓ Don't use your scooter or powered wheelchair if any medication you are taking causes drowsiness.

- ✓ Don't wear loose-fitting clothing, scarves and long coats, which can easily be caught in the wheels.
- ✓ Mobility scooters are constructed and designed for the driver only. Don't put yourself in any danger by carrying passengers, whether a child or adult.
- ✓ Carrying or leading a pet while you are on your scooter can present a major safety risk. If you need to have an assistance dog with you, be careful.
- ✓ Mobile phones can be a distraction, so pull over and stop before using one.
- ✓ Overloading your scooter with shopping or other goods can also make the vehicle unstable. Bags hanging from the handlebars will also make a scooter more difficult to control.
- ✓ Leaning forward and reaching to put items into you scooter can also be dangerous. If the scooter is turned on you can knock the controls and move it forward. A tiller that is too close to your stomach can also hinder steering, knock controls and cause collisions.
- ✓ Make sure you don't leave valuables such as a purse or handbag in the basket on the front of a scooter or hanging on the back of a powered wheelchair.



ON THE MOVE

“In a crowded area, you must make sure that you do not run into anyone or cause any damage with your scooter.”

- ✓ Always be aware of pedestrians and other road users. Remember that pedestrians have right of way and may not see or hear you approaching them, especially from behind! When reversing, look behind you before you move off or change direction.
 - ✓ Slow down in plenty of time. There may be a delay in braking on some scooters.
 - ✓ Be careful when going round corners as your scooter could topple over if you go round too quickly.
 - ✓ If you are using a Class 3 vehicle, you must switch over to the 4 miles an hour (6km an hour) setting when you are using it on a pavement or footpath.
 - ✓ Some scooters are only designed to be used safely on pavements or footpaths, except when you are crossing roads.
- ✓ Be careful when going up and down kerbs. Always approach at right angles and do not go up or down kerbs higher than recommended for the type and size of your wheels (look in the handbook for information).
 - ✓ Where possible, cross roads where there is a dropped kerb and use pedestrian crossings.
 - ✓ Take extra care when you cannot see the way ahead clearly. For example, if you are approaching a corner where there is a wall or hedge restricting your view.
 - ✓ Be very careful when approaching corners or junctions on loose gravel, a slippery surface or going downhill.
 - ✓ Do not park your scooter where it would cause an obstruction and make it difficult for others to use the pavement or footpath.
 - ✓ If you have to use a lift, drive in and reverse straight out safely as most lifts don't have the space for you to turn around in them. Beware of other lift users.



ON THE ROAD

“Remember that you are not driving a car but a very small slow vehicle, which is very vulnerable. It is wise to avoid using busy roads.”

- ✓ To drive on the road, you need a vehicle that can travel up to 8 miles an hour (12 km an hour). It must also have headlights, rear lights, flashing indicators and a horn.
- ✓ When on the road, you must follow the same rules as other traffic.
- ✓ You must keep to the left.
- ✓ You must obey traffic lights and all other road signals and instructions, including stop signs, give-way signs and signs for one-way streets.
- ✓ You must give way to pedestrians on crossings.
- ✓ At night, you must have your headlights and rear lights on.
- ✓ Although it is not recommended, you can use dual carriageways if you have an extra flashing amber warning light on a pole so it can be clearly seen.
- ✓ You are not allowed to use bus lanes or cycle tracks.
- ✓ You must not use your scooter on motorways.
- ✓ Always indicate before pulling out or turning left or right.
- ✓ When you are passing parked cars, look out for doors opening.



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or visit [fishinsurance.co.uk](https://www.fishinsurance.co.uk)

fish 
INSURANCE

USEFUL CONTACTS



AGE UK

0800 169 2081



BHTA – British Healthcare Trades Association

020 7702 2141



DISABILITY RIGHTS UK

020 7250 8181



DISABLED LIVING FOUNDATION

020 7289 6111



DISABLED MOTORING UK

01508 489 449



DVLA

0870 243 0444



FISH INSURANCE

0333 331 3776



MOTABILITY

0300 456 4566



NHS HELPLINE

111



SHOPMOBILITY

01933 229644





CALL OUR TEAM ON 0333 331 3776
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[^]Calls to 0333 numbers are usually chargeable at a local rate from both UK landlines and mobile phones. These calls are usually included within network providers' "free minutes" packages. *£25 discount applies to 1 year Mobility Scooter/Powerchair Insurance policies purchased online, normally priced at £79. Available to new customers only.

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