

# Powerchair VS Mobility Scooter

Choosing the right mobility device



# Choosing the right powered mobility

## device for your needs

Both mobility scooters and powerchairs will provide you with freedom and independence to get on with living your life. However, there are many options to choose from, and important things to consider to find the best powered mobility device to meet your needs.

This guide will provide you with information about the key differences between powerchairs and mobility scooters, to assist you in making the best decision for yourself.

### Benefits of Powerchairs

- Compact design
- Small turning radius (easier to manoeuvre in small spaces)
- Mid-wheel-drive powerchairs turn on their own radius, to get close to furniture like tables or the kitchen bench
- Can be driven with very limited strength and hand function
- Have built-in capacity to traverse obstacles and rougher surfaces
- Only one hand is required to drive
- Can be more easily configured, including different programming, to better suit an individual's needs or ability.

### Benefits of Mobility Scooters

- Tiller provides stability when getting on/off and while moving
- Have more capacity to carry more items such as groceries
- Can feel more stable when moving
- Easier to immobilise (lock) if you want to leave it outside a shop / house while not in use
- Smaller scooters are easily transportable and easier to pull apart
- Generally lower cost
- Greater range available.

# Things to consider

Answer the below to see which device gets more ticks and would suit you best.

## Your Physical Ability



		SCOOTER	POWERCHAIR
<b>Hand and upper body strength</b>	Do you have a good level of strength and movement in your fingers, hands and arms to operate hand controls and a tiller?	Yes	No
<b>Stability</b>	Do you have adequate trunk stability to sit upright and get in and out of a scooter easily?	Yes	No
<b>Sitting Unaided</b>	Do you have the strength and stability to maintain good posture while driving the mobility device?	Yes	No
<b>Dexterity</b>	Are you able to move easily to ensure that you can operate the steering mechanism and speed controls?	Yes	No
<b>Space</b>	Does your home have the space for you to manoeuvre a scooter through it or will you be using it outdoors only?	Yes	No

## Product Considerations

In order to match the proper product to the environment it is going to be used in a, you also need to consider the following product specifications.



		SCOOTER	POWERCHAIR
<b>Width &amp; length</b>	Is the product narrow enough to fit through doorways and passages, as well as turn in the required spaces?	Yes	No
<b>Ground Clearance</b>	Do you have obstacles to clear or spaces to traverse?	Yes	No
<b>Grade Climbable</b>	This means the gradient which the mobility product is able to climb - is the area where you live hilly or flat?	Yes	No

If you answered YES to more questions, a scooter may be best suitable for you. In case you answered mostly NO, then you might like to consider a powerchair option.



We also recommend that you talk to your local home healthcare dealer. They will be able to assist you in finding a product that is right for you and may have options available to try in your home.

