

Information about
**Transporting your
Wheelchair in a Vehicle**

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This leaflet gives you information on how to safely transport yourself and your wheelchair in a vehicle.

Transfer out of your wheelchair

Whenever possible, you as the wheelchair user should transfer into a vehicle seat for transportation. Your wheelchair and associated equipment should then be secured in the vehicle.

You may need luggage straps to secure your wheelchair if a suitable confined luggage compartment is unavailable.

It is important that your wheelchair is transported safely to prevent causing injury in the event of a collision.

If you can only travel in your wheelchair

You should always follow the advice in your wheelchair's manufacturers' user manual.

- Your wheelchair should be secured to the vehicle during transportation. You need to secure your wheelchair with a wheelchair tie-down system.
- You will need to wear a vehicle safety belt or harness during transportation. You will also need to use the harness within your wheelchair seating system as

this supports your posture. The harness within your wheelchair will not protect you in the event of a collision.

- Your wheelchair should either face the front or back of the vehicle during transportation, not sideways.
- Sharp objects on your wheelchair can potentially cause injury in the event of a collision. You should consider removing any seating accessories (e.g. pommel, tray) that will not affect your comfort whilst sitting in the wheelchair.
- A headrest fitted onto your wheelchair may help to reduce the risk of whiplash in the event of a collision. If your wheelchair has a headrest this is to support your posture and has not been tested for its performance in the event of a vehicle collision.

Transportation of Powered Wheelchairs

You should follow the advice as provided for the transportation of a manual wheelchair however please note the following points:

- Rigid clamp type wheelchair tie down systems are not suitable for powered wheelchairs and you should not use them.
- The wheelchair batteries should be properly restrained, the power supply switched off and the manual brakes applied, if there are any.

For more information

You can contact your transport provider.

If you do not have a manufacturer's user manual for your wheelchair you can request a copy by contacting WestMARC by on **0300 790 0129**.