
Maintenance of Your Power Wheelchair

Having a machine you can depend on and that will give you years of good service is possible if you care for it and contribute to its condition. It is important to have an Operators Manual for your chair. Ask your vendor if you did not receive one.

Charging

Charge your wheelchair every night for the full night. It is not possible to over charge and by maintaining a charge the batteries will last longer. If for some reason you are not using your power wheelchair for period of time, charge it at least monthly so that when it is needed again it will accept a charge.

Inflation

Check tire inflation weekly. Properly-inflated tires extend the life of your tires, extend your battery life, steering, and to improve the ride. Check your owner's manual or talk to your vendor to find the optimal tire pressure.

Cleaning

Cleaning is done best with a damp cloth and mild soap if necessary. Avoid submerging or spraying as components, electronics and motors will be damaged. Never use pressured water (e.g car wash or hose).

Repairs

Repairs and maintenance are done by your wheelchair vendor. A regular maintenance check is encouraged every 6 months to keep the chair in good repair. Vendors usually do not charge for checking it over and regular maintenance is a cost-effective measure to keep your chair running efficiently.

If the wheelchair is owned by Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) an annual amount of \$600 is granted for repair plus a new set of batteries. The amount is subject to the cost share agreement.

General Tips

Slow down when approaching obstacles and irregular surfaces. This can save in-home repairs, broken foot rests and flipping over.

Recognize that joysticks are fragile. Minimize any trauma to this component as repairs are costly.

Do not take on any additional riders as this stresses the motors and components.

Carefully move levers that disengage the motors. Avoid excessive force.

A power wheelchair enables people with reduced mobility to participate in more of life: work, shopping, socializing, and more while ensuring safety and preserving energy.

(see over)

Occupational Therapy

Skills for the job of living.

Finding an occupational therapist to help

Occupational therapy services for mobility-related problems can be accessed through many methods, including:

- Home Care or hospital programs through your regional health authority
- Extended health benefits with some insurers or as part of an insurance claim
- Veterans Affairs for eligible veterans
- Clients purchasing services directly from an occupational therapist

To find an occupational therapist go to our website at www.saot.ca and download the Private Practice Listing. Or for an occupational therapist employed by a regional health authority, phone Health Link, or go to the Inform Alberta website (www.informalberta.ca).



Occupational therapy assists you with the Skills for the job of living in caring for yourself and your family, in returning to work, and in resuming community activities.

For additional information of the benefits of occupational therapy and how it can assist you or someone you know, please contact:

info@saot.ca

www.saot.ca or www.otworks.com