

# WHEELCHAIR SELECTION GUIDE

**DIRECT  
SUPPLY**



# *The Direct Supply difference*



## **Direct Supply® provides the equipment you need and the service to support it.**

When seeking the ideal wheelchairs for your community or for individual residents, Direct Supply gives you access to all the replacement parts and accessories that make your entire wheelchair fleet compatible and convenient.

Direct Supply offers the widest selection of equipment in the industry. What's more, to help you choose the perfect product for your community's particular needs, we provide convenient, unbiased selection recommendations, such as this guide.

Your own personal account manager can also recommend and advise you on your selections. Their goal is to provide outrageous customer service whenever you need it, and they're skilled at knowing exactly what you need.

Once you've found the wheelchair you've been looking for, we'll make the rest of the process easy, and finish it off with 100% satisfaction guaranteed, 100% of the time.

# *The importance of maintenance*

**For optimal performance, be sure to maintain your community's wheelchairs regularly.**

Looking for additional parts to further customize your community's wheelchairs? Direct Supply also offers thousands of parts for practically any wheelchair. We pride ourselves on finding you the exact part you need, whenever you need it.

Save your community money and time with regular maintenance of your wheelchair fleet. Your personal account manager has all the maintenance resources you'll need. And they are only a phone call away!

**Call 1-800-634-7328 for more information today.**



# 10 Questions for Selecting the Right Wheelchair

## 1. DO YOU NEED DUAL HEIGHT OR FIXED FRAME?

Fig. 1

The difference in your residents' height is a major factor to consider when choosing wheelchairs. **Fixed-frame** chairs are an ideal, economical choice for residents of similar heights, when you don't need versatility in the sizing of the wheelchair. **Dual-height** wheelchairs will accommodate a diverse resident population, because they allow you to change the height of the wheelchair.

Fig. 1



A dual-height option provides an adult height, plus a hemi-height option to accommodate multiple resident body types

## 2. WHAT SEAT WIDTH DO YOU NEED? Fig. 2

Placing the resident in a seat that's too narrow creates an opportunity for dangerous skin shearing. A seat that's too wide rotates the resident's legs inward and puts strain on the hips.

To ensure a correct fit, measure the resident across the widest point of his or her hips or thighs. Then add an additional inch to accommodate the wheelchair seat upholstery width. And if side cushions are to be used, be sure to add their width as well.

**Seat too wide**

**Incorrect:** Rotates legs inward and puts strain on hips



**Seat too narrow**

**Incorrect:** Creates opportunity for skin shearing

Fig. 2

*Calculate Resident's Seat Width Requirement:*

1. Resident's seat width = \_\_\_\_\_
2. Add 1" = \_\_\_\_\_
3. Add thickness of side cushions (if cushion is used) = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**

**Seat too deep**

**Incorrect:** Resident hunches forward



**Seat too shallow**

**Incorrect:** Weight shifted forward causing instability



**Seat too deep**

**Incorrect:** Circulation is compromised



**Seat too shallow**

**Incorrect:** Lack of support and comfort

Fig. 3

*Calculate Resident's Seat Depth Requirement:*

1. Resident's seat depth = \_\_\_\_\_
2. Subtract 2 1/2" = \_\_\_\_\_
3. Add thickness of back cushion (if cushion is used) = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**

**Seat back too high**

**Incorrect:** Leaning forward or restricted shoulder movement



**Seat back too low**

**Incorrect:** Poor trunk stability



Fig. 4

*Calculate Resident's Back Height Requirement:*

1. Resident's back height = \_\_\_\_\_
2. Add half the thickness of seat cushion (if used) = \_\_\_\_\_
3. Subtract 4" for residents with good trunk muscles = \_\_\_\_\_
4. Subtract 3" for residents with poor trunk muscles = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**

Fig. 5

Wheelchair Style	Seat-to-Floor Height	Resident Height
Hemi	17 1/2"	under 5'5"
Adult	19 1/2" to 20 1/2"	5'5" to 6'2"
Tall	21 1/2"	over 6'2"



Fig.6



Fig.7

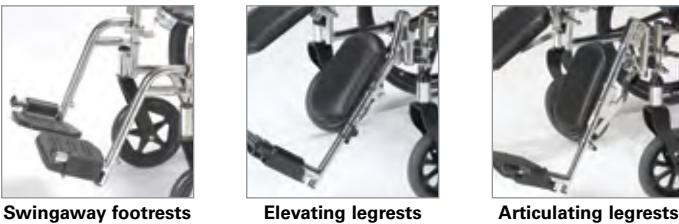


Fig.8



Fig.9

Reclining wheelchair

Fig.10

Tilt-in-Space wheelchair

## 6. WHAT TYPE OF ARMRESTS DO YOU NEED? *Fig.6*

There are several options to consider when selecting the right armrests for each wheelchair.

Armrests can be **permanent** to ensure they won't be lost, or **removable** to make transfers easier. **Flipback styles** combine the best of permanent and removable armrests – they can't get lost but flip out of the way for unobstructed transfers. **Full-length** armrests provide more support for easier ingress and egress, while **desk-length** armrests allow the wheelchair to fit easily under most desks or tables. **Fixed armrests** are 10" above the seat, and **adjustable versions** allow you to raise and lower the armrests to better suit the resident. **Padded armrests** enhance resident comfort and help decrease the risk of pressure ulcers.

## 7. WHAT TYPE OF FRONT RIGGINGS DO YOU NEED?

Fig.7

There are three types of riggings: swingaway footrests, elevating legrests and articulating legrests. Footrests are available in swingaway styles to support residents' feet while they are in the chair and rotate out of the way for easier transfers.

Legrests are available in elevating or articulating styles. Elevating legrests support the legs with comfortable calf pads and allow angle-of-elevation adjustment. Articulating legrests are similar to elevating ones, but they extend during elevation for enhanced comfort.

## 8. WHAT WEIGHT CAPACITY DO YOU NEED?

Wheelchairs are available in several constructions:

- **Standard** with capacities up to 250 lbs.
- **High strength and lightweight** with capacities up to 300 lbs.
- **Heavy duty and extra wide** with capacities up to 450 lbs.
- **Bariatric models** with capacities up to 1,000 lbs.

## 9. WHAT TYPE OF UPHOLSTERY DO YOU NEED? *Fig.8*

Upholstery is available in a variety of styles. Double-embossed vinyl is easy to clean, two sided and extra durable. Nylon is lighter weight and more breathable than vinyl. Flame-retardant upholstery meets CA #116 and #117 fire codes. Bacteria-resistant upholstery helps improve infection control and reduce odor. Most upholsteries are available in multiple colors, and some have chart pockets for handy storage.

## 10. DO YOU NEED A RECLINING OR TILT-IN-SPACE WHEELCHAIR? *Fig.9 & 10*

Reclining wheelchairs and tilt-in-space wheelchairs can offer resident-specific support or relief for a range of conditions based on clinical assessments that clinicians and caregivers can implement to support an individualized care plan. Reclining wheelchairs (*Fig. 9*) allow for pressure redistribution to avoid skin breakdown while providing more comfort for someone who needs a wheelchair for mobility. Tilt wheelchairs (*Fig. 10*) can be used for individuals who need more pressure relief to prevent pressure sores by getting them into a more comfortable position where weight is distributed so it is not all directly on their IT or coccyx.

# Wheelchair Comparison Chart

Stock Chairs				Standard		Lightweight				Reclining	
Direct Choice™	Panacea®		Invacare®	Panacea®	Invacare®	Panacea®		Invacare®	Invacare®	Panacea®	
Basic	Transport	Fixed Frame	Tracer EX2	Standard	Tracer SX5	Lightweight	XLT	9000XT	SX5 Recliner	Reclining	
Seat Width	16", 18" or 20"	18" or 20"	18" or 20"	16", 18" or 20"	16", 18" or 20"	14", 16", 18", 20" or 22"	16", 18" or 20"	16", 18" or 20"	Adult/Hemi: 14", 15", 16", 17", 18", 20" or 22"; Super Hemi: 14", 15", 16", 17" or 18"	14", 16", 18", 20" or 22"	18"
Seat Depth	16"	16"	16"	16" or 18"	16"	16" or 18"	16"	16" & 18" adjustable	16", 17" or 18"	16" or 18"	16"
Back Height	18"	16"	16"	16"	16"	16" or 18"	16"	16" - 17" adjustable	15" - 19" (Adjust in 1" increments)	34"	30"
Seat-to-Floor Height	17½" & 19½" adjustable	19½"	19½"	17½" & 19½" adjustable; 15½", 16½" or 18½"	17½" & 19½" adjustable	17½" & 19½" adjustable; 15½", 16½" or 18½"	17½" & 19½" adjustable	17", 18" or 19"	17½" & 19½" adjustable; 13½", 14½", 15½", 16½" or 18½"	19½"	19½"
Axle	Dual	Single	Single	Dual	Dual	Dual	Dual	Dual	Single	Single	
Armrest Style	Desk or Full	Full	Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Full
Removable Armrests	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adjustable-Height Arms	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Front Riggings	Swingaway footrests or elevating legrests	Fixed	Fixed	Footrests, elevating or articulating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests or elevating legrests; Bolt Through; "No tools"	Footrests, elevating or articulating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests or elevating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests or elevating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests, elevating or articulating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests, elevating or articulating legrests; "No tools"	Elevating legrests
Upholstery	Nylon – Black	Nylon – Black	Nylon – Black	Vinyl – Midnight Blue, Black or Ruby	Vinyl – Black	Nylon – Black Vinyl – Midnight Blue or Black	Nylon – Black	Nylon – Black	Nylon – Black Nylon – Black Vinyl – Midnight Blue, Marina Blue, Dove Gray, Ruby or Black	Nylon – Black Nylon – Black	Nylon – Black
Weight Capacity	250 lbs.	250 lbs.	250 lbs.	250 lbs.	250 or 300 lbs.	250 or 300 lbs.	300 or 350 lbs.	300 lbs.	250 lbs.	250 or 300 lbs.	300 lbs.
Product Weight	33 lbs.	26 lbs.	44 lbs.	36 lbs.	36 - 39 lbs.	34 lbs.	35 - 38 lbs.	32 - 36 lbs.	31 lbs.	53 lbs.	48 - 54 lbs.
HCPSC Code	K0001	N/A	N/A	K0001	K0001	K0001	K0003	K0004	K0004	N/A	N/A

		Heavy Duty					Bariatric			Heavy Duty & Bariatric Reclining	
	Invacare®	Invacare®		Panacea®	Gendron		Invacare®	Panacea®	Gendron	Panacea®	Gendron
	9000 XT Reclining	Tracer IV	9000 XDT	Heavy Duty	Tracker II	Regency XL	9000 Topaz	Bariatric	Regency XL2000	Heavy Duty Reclining	XL2000 Recliner
	14", 16", 18", 20" or 22"	18", 20", 22" or 24"	16", 17", 18" 19", 20" or 22"	20", 22" or 24"	20", 22" or 24"	20", 22", 24" 26" or 28"	20", 22", 24" 26", 28" or 30"	26", 28" or 30"	20", 22", 24" 26", 28", 30" or 32"	22"	28", 30" or 32"
	16", 17" or 18"	18" or 20"	16", 17", 18" 19", 20" or 22"	18"	18"	18"	18" or 20"	20"	18", 20" or 22"	18"	20" or 22"
	34"	16"	14" - 18" or 15" - 19" (Adjust in 1" increments)	16" or 18"	16"	16"	16" - 18" (Adjust in 1" increments)"	16" or 18"	16" - 18" (Adjust in 1" increments)"	30"	36"
	17%", 18%" or 19%"	17%" & 19%" adjustable	17%", 19%" & 21%" adjustable	17%" & 19%" adjustable	19%"	19%"	17%" & 19%" adjustable; 15%"	17%" & 19%" adjustable (Mag Wheel) 19%" (Spoke Wheel)	18", 20" & 22" (Single) 18", 20" & 22" adjustable (Triple)	21"	16", 17" & 18" adjustable
	Dual	Dual	Triple	Dual	Single	Single	Dual	Dual (Mag) Single (Spoke)	Single or Triple	Single	Triple
	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Desk or Full	Full	Full	Full
	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Footrests, elevating or articulating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests, elevating or articulating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests, elevating or articulating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests or elevating legrests; Bolt Through	Footrests or elevating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests or elevating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests or elevating legrests; Bolt Through	XL, heavy-duty aluminum tapered footplates	Footrests or elevating legrests; "No tools"	Footrests, elevating or articulating legrests	Footrests or elevating legrests; "No tools"
	Nylon – Black Vinyl – Midnight Blue, Dove Gray, Ruby or Black	Nylon – Black Vinyl – Midnight Blue, Dove Gray, Ruby or Black	Nylon – Black	Vinyl – Black	Nylon – Black	Nylon – Black	Nylon – Black Vinyl – Midnight Blue or Black	Nylon – Black	Nylon – Black	Vinyl – Midnight Blue or Black	Nylon – Black
	250 lbs.	350 or 450 lbs.	350 lbs.	450 lbs.	350 lbs.	450 or 600 lbs.	700 or 1,000 lbs.	700 lbs.	700, 750 or 1,000 lbs.	450 lbs.	850 lbs.
	50 lbs.	42 lbs.	37 lbs.	54 - 66 lbs.	35 lbs.	35 lbs.	85 lbs.	87 - 89 lbs.	67 - 88 lbs.	55 lbs.	70 - 74 lbs.
	N/A	K0006	K0006	K0006	K0006	K0006	K0007	K0007	K0007	N/A	N/A



## Drive proper positioning and better clinical outcomes **with individualized seating solutions**

A one-size-fits-all approach to wheelchair seating and positioning may lead to insufficient postural support, resulting in:

- Excessive energy expenditure for upright sitting
- Slouching/leaning
- Sliding out of the chair
- Falls from the chair
- Increased pressure on the bony prominences
- Decreased social interaction

Help your residents maintain a good seated position with minimal effort by customizing a complete seating solution to their unique size, shape and need.

**The Right Wheelchair + The Right Cushion + The Right Back = Better Outcomes**

**Call your account manager at 1-800-634-7328  
for help selecting positioning solutions.**

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