

Buying a Used Wheelchair: Quick Checklist Before You Pay

Purchasing a used wheelchair? Use this **practical checklist** to ensure safety, comfort, and proper fit. For detailed guidance on measurements and fit, check our [Comprehensive Guide to Proper Wheelchair Fitting and Selection](#).

1. Check the Wheelchair Condition

- ✓ Frame – No cracks, bends, or rust
 - ✓ Wheels & casters – Spin freely, no wobble, tread intact
 - ✓ Brakes – All locks and brakes functional
 - ✓ Moving parts – Footrests, armrests, and reclining mechanisms operate smoothly
 - ✓ Upholstery – Seat and backrest intact, cushions not overly worn
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2. Verify Fit and Measurements

- ✓ Seat width – Hips and thighs supported without pressure
- ✓ Seat depth – Thigh support without pressure behind knees
- ✓ Seat height & footrest length – Feet comfortably clear the floor
- ✓ Back height – Supports trunk without restricting movement
- ✓ Armrest height – Forearms rest naturally

Tip: Compare these measurements to your body before buying.

3. Confirm Type & Use

- ✓ Manual, transport, or power wheelchair – Match your strength & independence level
 - ✓ Active user, bariatric, or pediatric – Fit body size and mobility needs
 - ✓ Environment – Indoor, outdoor, or travel-friendly features
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4. Inspect Seat, Cushion & Support

- ✓ Cushion type – Foam, gel, or air for comfort and pressure relief
 - ✓ Backrest – Low, high, or tilt-in-space based on trunk control
 - ✓ Armrests & legrests – Swing-away or elevating options for easy transfers
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5. Ask About History & Support

- ✓ Age & previous use
 - ✓ Any repairs or part replacements
 - ✓ Service availability & spare parts
 - ✓ Recalls – Ensure the model hasn't been recalled
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✓ Bonus Tips

- **Test it first:** Sit, move, and try adjustments before buying
 - **Check environment compatibility:** Doorways, home, or vehicle access
 - **Plan for accessories:** Cushions, footrests, or tray tables if needed
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Buying a used wheelchair can be safe and cost-effective if you follow this checklist. Always start with **accurate measurements** and ensure the wheelchair fits your body and lifestyle.

For more in-depth guidance on fit, posture, and wheelchair selection, see our full [wheelchair fitting guide](#).