

Choosing a mobility scooter

If you are thinking about getting a mobility scooter to help you get around there are few things to think about. We advise that you look at and try a range of scooters before you buy one by visiting a dealer or trying a friend's. A good dealer will never pressurise you to buy a scooter on your first visit.

You and your health

Your health is an important consideration when choosing the type of mobility scooter you need. Is your overall health, eyesight and hearing still good? After all you are in charge of the scooter and need to use it safely on the pavement or road.

What's your overall level of mobility?

Can you get on and off a scooter easily, will it be comfortable during prolonged use and can you operate and control it safely?

Are you on medication? Does it make you tired? Think about when is the best time of day for using your mobility scooter.

How much do you weigh? Be sure to buy a scooter which can safely carry you and any additional items you may wish to carry.

If you have any doubt about health consideration, consult a health professional or optician etc.

What do you want to use the scooter for?

Have you thought about how you want to use a scooter? Is it for short journeys (popping to the local shops) or for longer journeys a few miles away? Do you need to use it around the house and garden? Does it need to go in the boot of a car?

Take a look at the sections on the different type of scooters.

Storage and charging

Where are you going to store and charge the scooter? Will it fit in the house, shed or garage? Can you easily remove the battery to charge it or is it on board charging only?

Car boot scooters

Some type of scooters fold down and can fit into the boot of a car but can weigh around 30kg / 4 stone. Are you able to lift this type of weight or will someone help you? Perhaps look at a folding type that splits into smaller parts. Make sure you try putting the scooter into the boot of your car before you buy.



Budget

Consider your budget and do you want to buy new or pre owned. Buying new from a dealer is normally going to be the more expensive option initially but should give you access to a wider choice, training, advice as well as after sales service and guarantees.

Remember most scooters will feel comfortable, operate and handle well on the flat smooth surface of a showroom but that is not where you are likely to be using it.

A reputable dealer should allow you to test out a scooter before you buy it and it is a good idea to do that on the terrain and environment where you intend to use the scooter. This should also include your home and where you will store and charge the scooter. Remember to ask the dealer and read the manual to understand how to use the scooter safely.

A dealer will often offer free insurance on your purchase as well as registering any Class 3 scooter with the DVLA for you.

Class 2 scooters

These are generally small to medium sized scooters (Class 2). Some types fold up or can be taken apart to put in a car boot but check you can lift this weight into the car.



- Class 2 scooters can only be used on pedestrian area and pavements
- They cannot be used on the road except where there is no pavement
- They usually have a standard range of 7 to 12 miles per charge
- They can travel up to 4mph but remember this may be too fast for many pavements
- Some of these scooters, subject to certain conditions, may be allowed on public transport and transportable on airlines
- A Class 2 scooter does not need to be registered with DVLA

Class 3 scooters

These are larger scooters which generally are fitted with lights, mirrors and indicators. These can offer far greater comfort and be used for travelling greater distances on the road.



- Class 3 scooters can be used on the road and have a maximum speed of 8mph
- They can be used on pavements and pedestrian areas but they MUST be switched to 4mph but remember this may be too fast for many pavements
- They may have a carrying capacity of up to 30 stone and above
- They usually have a range between 15 to 32 mile per charge
- Class 3 scooters can only be driven by someone 14 years and above
- A Class 3 mobility scooter must be registered with DVLA

General advice

You do not need a licence or insurance to drive a mobility scooter although insurance is strongly advised.

Wearing high visibility clothing is highly advisable for pavement and road use, as is a high visibility scooter bag for the rear of your scooter. Be bright, be seen.

Using your scooter on the pavement

Pedestrians have right of way so allow plenty of space when passing them. This is especially important for pedestrians who may have visual or hearing impairments and young children who might not be aware that you are there.

Using the Class 3 scooter on the road

If you have a Class 3 Scooter and are using it on the road, you MUST follow the Highway Code as if you were driving a car such as travelling on the left hand side, using lights at night and obeying all traffic signs and signals. Remember you are a lot smaller, slower and less protected than surrounding vehicles, so take care.

A mobility scooter of any class

MUST NOT be used on a motorway under any circumstances.

This Safer Roads Humber guide was compiled with the support of Access Mobility Beverley. The guide is not exhaustive but a brief overview to the safe and courteous use of a mobility scooter.

For further information please contact your mobility dealer or call Martin at Access Mobility Beverley on **01482 966962** or via email

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Mobility

Access Mobility Beverley proud to support
the work of Safer Roads Humber



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