

Wheelchairs Selection Guide

*Choose wheelchairs that suit
your community perfectly*



The Direct Supply difference



Direct Supply® Equipment & Furnishings™ provides the equipment you need and the service to support it.

Direct Supply offers the biggest selection of equipment in the industry. What's more, we also test our diverse products ourselves for guaranteed quality. To help you choose the perfect product for your community's particular needs, we provide convenient, unbiased selection recommendations, such as this guide.

When seeking the ideal wheelchair for your community or individual residents, you'll have access to all the replacement parts and accessories that make your entire wheelchair fleet compatible and convenient.

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.



Select the ideal wheelchairs for your residents

Frame type • Seat width • Seat depth



Seat too narrow
Incorrect: Creates opportunity for skin shearing



Seat too wide
Incorrect: Rotates legs inward and puts strain on hips

Selecting the right wheelchairs for your residents is crucial to their overall quality of life. Wheelchairs must be sized properly to ensure a comfortable, safe fit, and must include the right features to meet each resident's unique needs.

To help you choose the right chairs for your residents, just follow the simple steps in this guide and you'll be prepared to confidently select the perfect wheelchair for every resident, every time.

1. Do you need dual height or fixed frame?

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

2. What seat width do you need?

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 in as well.

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

3. What seat depth do you need?

A seat that's too shallow causes the resident's weight to shift forward for a less stable environment. A seat that's too deep compromises circulation and causes the resident to hunch forward to compensate.

To find the right seat depth, measure your resident (while seated) from the rear of the buttocks to the inner surface of the back of the knee. Be sure to subtract 2½" to accommodate the upholstery depth. And if a back cushion is to be used, add its depth to ensure a more accurate fit.

Calculate Resident's Seat Depth Requirement:

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1. Resident's seat depth | = | _____ |
| 2. Subtract 2½" | = | _____ |
| 3. Add thickness of back cushion (if cushion is used) | = | _____ |

TOTAL



Seat too deep

Incorrect: Resident hunches forward



Seat too deep

Incorrect: Circulation is compromised



Seat too shallow

Incorrect: Lack of support and comfort



Seat too shallow

Incorrect: Weight shifted forward equals instability

Select the ideal wheelchairs for your residents

Back height • Seat height



Seat back too high

Incorrect: Leaning forward or restricted shoulder movement



Seat back too low

Incorrect: Poor trunk stability

4. What back height do you need?

Back heights that are too low cause poor trunk stability, and those that are too high restrict shoulder movement and cause residents to lean forward.

To determine the proper fit, measure the resident from his or her buttocks to the underside of his or her extended arm. Then add half the thickness of the seat cushion (if one is used). Then subtract 4" for residents with good trunk muscles, or subtract 3" for residents with poor trunk muscles.

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

5. What seat-to-floor height do you need?

Seat-to-floor heights that are too high will not allow the resident's feet to touch the ground, which is especially dangerous when exiting a wheelchair. If the seat-to-floor height is too low, the resident's legs could drag on the floor or the knees could bend uncomfortably when using front riggings.

Measuring the overall height of each resident helps you determine an approximate seat-to-floor height. Most residents between 5'5" and 6'2" require a standard adult wheelchair. Residents over 6'2" may require a tall wheelchair, and residents under 5'5" often need hemi wheelchairs.

Wheelchair Style	Seat-to-Floor Height	Resident Height
Hemi	17½"	under 5'5"
Adult	19½" to 20½"	5'5" to 6'2"
Tall	21½"	over 6'2"



Select the ideal wheelchairs for your residents

Armrests • Front riggings • Weight capacity



Armrest too high
Incorrect: Causes “shrugging”



Armrest too low
Incorrect: Creates strain with shoulders dropping

6. What type of armrests do you need?

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 decrease the risk of pressure ulcers.



Permanent armrest



Flipback armrest



Desk-length armrest



Adjustable armrest

7. What type of front riggings do you need?

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.



Swingaway footrests



Elevating legrests

8. What weight capacity do you need?

Wheelchairs are available in several constructions:

- Standard and dual-height 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.



Articulating legrests

Select the ideal wheelchairs for your residents

Upholstery • Reclining



Double-embossed vinyl



Nylon

9. What type of upholstery do you need?

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 improves infection control and reduces odor. Most upholsteries are available in multiple colors and some have chart pockets for handy storage.



Chart pockets

10. Do you need a reclining wheelchair?





Reclining wheelchairs are an ideal solution for many of your residents, including those that suffer from the following conditions:

- Severe arthritis
- Respiratory difficulties
- Poor trunk stability
- Quadriplegia
- Head injuries
- Post radical laminectomy
- Severe multiple sclerosis
- Muscular dystrophy
- Severe decubitus ulcers on the buttocks








Reclining wheelchair


Wheelchair Comparison Chart

Manufacturer	 Invacare		 Invacare	 Drive	 Invacare
Wheelchair model	Tracer EX2	Quick-Ship Tracer EX2	Tracer EX2 Fixed Frame	Silver Sport 2	Tracer SX5
Do you need dual height or fixed frame?	Dual	Dual	Dual	Dual	Dual
What seat width do you need?	16", 18" or 20"	16", 18" or 20"	18" or 20"	16", 18" or 20"	14", 16", 18", 20" or 22"
What seat depth do you need?	16" or 18"	16"	16"	16"	16" or 18"
What back height do you need?	16"	16"	16"	16"	16", 18"
What seat-to-floor height do you need?	Adult/Hemi 15½", 16½", 17½", 18½", 19½"	17½", 19½"	21"	Adult/Hemi 17½", 19½"	Adult/Hemi 15½", 16½", 17½", 18½", 19½"
What type of armrests do you need?	Removable or permanent; full or desk; adjustable-height or fixed-height (offset)	Removable or permanent; full or desk; fixed-height (offset)	Permanent; full; fixed-height	Removable or permanent; desk; fixed-height	Permanent; full or desk; flipback; adjustable-height or fixed-height
What type of front riggings do you need?	Swingaway, elevating or articulating; "No tools"	Does NOT come with front riggings; must be ordered separately	Fixed	Swingaway or elevating; Bolt through; "No tools"	Swingaway, elevating or articulating; "No tools"
What weight capacity do you need?	250 lbs.	250 lbs.	250 lbs.	250 lbs.	250 or 300 lbs.
What type of upholstery do you need?	Black, midnight blue or ruby double-embossed vinyl	Midnight blue	Midnight blue, black or ruby single-embossed vinyl	Black single-embossed vinyl	Midnight blue, black or ruby double-embossed vinyl; black nylon
Do you need a reclining wheelchair?	No	No	No	No	No

				
Drive	Invacare	Drive	Invacare	Invacare
Cruiser III	Tracer 9000 SL	Cirrus IV	9000 XT	Tracer IV
Dual	Dual	Dual	Dual	Dual
16", 18" or 20"	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"	18", 20", 22" or 24"
16"	16" or 18"	16"	16", 17" or 18"	18" or 20"
16"	15"-17" or 17"-19" (Adjust in 1" increments)	16"	Adjustable 15"-19" (Adjust in 1" increments)	16"
Adult/Hemi 17½", 19½"	Adult/Hemi 15½", 16½", 17½", 18½", 19½"	Adult/Hemi 17½", 19½"	Adult/Hemi 15½", 16½", 17½", 18½", 19½" Super Hemi 13½", 14½"	17½", 19½"
Flipback; removable; full or desk; fixed-height	Full or desk; flipback; adjustable height or fixed-height	Removable; full or desk; flipback; fixed-height	Removable; full or desk; flipback; adjustable-height or fixed-height	Removable; full or desk; adjustable-height or fixed-height
Swingaway or elevating; "No tools"	Swingaway, elevating or articulating; "No tools"	Swingaway or elevating; "No tools"	Swingaway, elevating or articulating; "No tools"	Swingaway, elevating or articulating; "No tools"
300 or 350 lbs.	250 lbs.	300 lbs.	250 lbs.	350 or 450 lbs.
Black nylon	Black double-embossed vinyl or nylon	Black nylon	Black nylon	Black, camel, dove gray, marina blue, midnight blue or ruby double-embossed vinyl; black nylon
No	No	No	No	No

Wheelchair Comparison Chart

Manufacturer	 Drive	 Invacare	 Gendron	 Gendron	 Invacare
Wheelchair model	Sentra EC	9000 XDT	Tracker II	Regency XL	9000 Topaz
Do you need dual height or fixed frame?	Dual	Triple	Single	Single	Dual
What seat width do you need?	20", 22" or 24"	16", 17", 18", 19", 20" or 22"	20", 22" or 24"	20", 22" or 24"	20", 22", 24", 26", 28" or 30"
What seat depth do you need?	16" or 18"	16", 17", 18", 19" or 20"	18"	18"	18" or 20"
What back height do you need?	16" or 18"	Adjustable 14"-18" or 15"-19" (Adjust in 1" increments)	16"	16"	Adjustable 16"-18" (Adjust in 1" increments)
What seat-to-floor height do you need?	19¾" or Adult/Hemi 17½", 19½"	Adult/Hemi 17½", 19½" Tall 21½"	19½"	19½"	Adult/Hemi 15½", 17½", 19½"
What type of armrests do you need?	Removable; full or desk; fixed-height	Removable; full or desk; flipback; adjustable-height or fixed-height	Removable; full or desk; adjustable-height	Removable; full or desk; adjustable-height	Removable; full or desk; adjustable-height or fixed-height
What type of front riggings do you need?	Swingaway or elevating; Bolt through	Swingaway, elevating or articulating; "No tools"	Swingaway or elevating; "No tools"	Swingaway or elevating; "No tools"	Swingaway or elevating; Bolt through
What weight capacity do you need?	450 lbs.	350 lbs.	350 lbs.	450 or 600 lbs.	700 or 1,000 lbs.
What type of upholstery do you need?	Black double-embossed vinyl	Black nylon	Black nylon	Black nylon	Black or midnight blue double-embossed vinyl; black nylon
Do you need a reclining wheelchair?	No	No	No	No	No

				
Gendron	Gendron	Invacare	Invacare	Rock 'N Go
Regency XL 2000	Regency XL 2000 Recliner	Tracer SX5 Recliner	9000 XT Recliner	Rock N' Go
Single or Triple	Triple	Single	Single	Single
20", 22", 24", 26", 28", 30" or 32"	28", 30" or 32"	14", 16", 18", 20" or 22"	14", 16", 18", 19", 20" or 22"	20"
18", 20" or 22"	20" or 22"	16" or 18"	16", 17" or 18"	16"
Adjustable 16"-18" (Adjust in 1" increments)	36" (23" plus 13" headrest)	34" (24" plus 10" removable headrest)	34" (34" plus 10" removable headrest with pillow)	32"
Super Hemi 15", 16" Hemi 17", 18"	16", 17", 18"	17½", 18½", 19½"	17½", 18½", 19½"	16" to 19" or 14" to 17"
Removable; full; fixed-height	Removable; full; fixed-height	Removable; full or desk; fixed-height	Removable; full or desk; fixed-height	Fixed; full
Swingaway or elevating; "No tools"	Swingaway or elevating; "No tools"	Swingaway, elevating or articulating; "No tools"	Swingaway, elevating or articulating; "No tools"	Adjustable or elevating
700, 750 or 1,000 lbs.	850 lbs.	250 or 300 lbs.	250 lbs.	350 lbs.
Black nylon	Black nylon	Midnight blue, black or ruby double-embossed vinyl	Midnight blue double-embossed vinyl; black nylon	Crypton fabric
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



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