

Choice Assistance Guide - Scooters

Who might benefit from a scooter?

Scooters are designed to help people maximise their independence. Maybe you get tired easily and struggle when you're out and about – a scooter could be beneficial for you and make everyday tasks easier.

What type of scooters are available?

<p>Small</p> <p>These scooters are suitable for smooth and level terrain e.g. shopping centres. These scooters can often fold or disassemble, making them ideal for transport and storage. They are ideal for the user who wants to travel short distances on a daily basis (up to 20km).</p>	
<p>Medium</p> <p>These scooters are able for more varied outdoor terrain and limited indoor use. They are a good outdoor option and ideal for the user who wants to travel short to medium distances on a daily basis (20km – 40km).</p>	
<p>Large</p> <p>These scooters can handle rougher terrain and steep hills. They are a great outdoor option and ideal for the user who wants to travel long distances on a daily basis (30km – 50km).</p>	

How do I know what scooter is right for me?

What environment will you be using your scooter in?

If you are going to use your scooter predominantly indoors, a small scooter will best suit your needs thanks to its small turning circle and manoeuvrability. Medium scooters perform well outdoors, and allow limited indoor use. Large scooters can handle hills and rough terrain best, thanks to more advanced suspension systems.

How far do you need to go?

Think about what distances you need to travel on a daily basis; how far will a fully charged battery get you? This is known as “Range per Charge”. Generally large scooters have a higher “Range per Charge”. It is worth noting that “Range per Charge” is affected by stopping/starting; hills; weight on the scooter.

How much do you weigh?

It is important to check the maximum weight the scooter can take. It is a good idea to choose a scooter that can take more than your weight, as this will prove beneficial when extra power is needed e.g. on hills.

Do you need to transport your scooter?

If you want to be able to get your scooter on and off public transport, is important to check with your local service providers - can their vehicles accommodate your scooter’s dimensions. If you want to be able to transport your scooter in the boot of a car, will it disassemble or fold to allow you to do this?

Where will you store your scooter?

Think about where you will store your scooter at home and whether you can access this place. Your scooter should be kept in a safe, secure environment and should not be left exposed to the weather.

I’ve chosen my scooter, how do I look after it?

- **Batteries** – Your scooter’s batteries should be charged on a daily basis to prolong the battery’s lifespan.
- **Servicing** – Just like you service your car, you should ensure that your scooter is regularly serviced. It is a good idea to have your scooter serviced every 12 months. Aidacare can help with this.
- **Weather** – While scooters are robust and durable, they should not be left exposed to the elements. Store your scooter in a secure, dry environment and avoid using it in the rain.

How do I use my scooter?

This will vary slightly, depending on the type of scooter you have chosen. It is always a good idea to ask your healthcare professional to show you how to safely use your new scooter and get the most out of it.

Here are some tips:

			
<p>Select a speed that is appropriate to the environment you are operating your scooter in.</p>	<p>Remember – a scooter user is classified as a pedestrian, so it is important to behave like one.</p>	<p>Charge your scooter every day to prolong your battery’s lifespan.</p>	<p>Liaise with your healthcare professional to safely learn how to use your scooter.</p>