

Wheelchair

Safety Precautions

Safety is the primary concern in all techniques when operating a manual wheelchair. It is important for attendants to know and use proper assisting procedures.

Using Wheel Locks - The wheel locks should be engaged against both rear wheels before sitting down or getting up from the chair.

Stability - DO NOT move forward on the seat while leaning out of the chair. If you must do so, then make sure the casters are in the forward position. This creates a longer wheelbase giving the wheelchair more stability. Also, do not reach further than the length of your arm as this can cause tipping.

Transferring - DO NOT step on the footplates when transferring in or out for this can cause tipping. Footplates should be folded up or swung-away to the sides during transferring.

Ramps - Before attempting to go up a ramp, you should learn your own capabilities and limitations as far as your strength and endurance. A qualified professional should be consulted for proper techniques and ramp negotiation.

Traveling up or down steep inclines - Inclines greater than 10% (1 foot elevations or a 10 foot ramp), should be assisted by an attendant to prevent loss of steering or tipping backwards.

If it is necessary to stop when going up an incline, avoid making any sudden or abrupt forward movements when starting again as this can cause the wheelchair to tip over.

When going down an incline, grab the handrims as you descent to maintain speed and control. Do NOT use the wheel locks to slow down for this may cause accidental locking, sudden stopping, or even tipping to one side. Try and avoid changing directions while descending as this can cause instability.

Operating Instructions

Opening the Wheelchair - Grab the armrest with one hand and tilt the wheelchair towards you. Push down the seat rail with the other hand. Do NOT put your fingers between the seat rail and the side panel.

Folding Wheelchair - Fold the footplates before folding the wheelchair. Grab the armrest with one hand and tilt the wheelchair towards you. Lift up the front of the seat rail opposite you with your other hand.

Removing the Footplates - Push the lock handle towards the inside of the wheelchair. To lock the footrest, swing the footrest towards the inside of the wheelchair.

Applying the Wheel Locks - To lock the rear wheels, push the brake handle in a forward direction to engage. To release the wheels, pull brake handle in a backward direction to disengage.

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