DON’T MISS A MOMENT

Your guide to choosing a mobility scooter

PRESENTED BY:

drive
**Mobility is important.** It lets you shop at the store, dine out with friends and keep up with your family. In short, mobility is independence. So when your mobility is limited, it keeps you from experiencing life the way you want to live it.

If you are finding it harder and harder to get around and need occasional or part-time mobility assistance to perform your daily activities, a scooter might be the right solution for you.

**What is a mobility scooter?**

Mobility scooters—sometimes called POVs (Power Operated Vehicles)—are mobility devices that are similar to power wheelchairs but have the appearance of a motor scooter.

Scooters are operated via a control panel with bicycle-like handlebars mounted atop a tall post called a tiller. Steering via a tiller does require some upper body strength, so keep that in mind when deciding if a scooter is right for you. Also, even the smallest scooters require more room to maneuver than a power wheelchair.
Feature Focus:
Some scooters feature wraparound—or “Delta”—control handles rather than the standard handlebar type. Delta handles make operating the scooter easier for users with limited hand strength or dexterity by allowing them to use either their thumbs or forefingers to operate the throttle control—whichever is most comfortable.

For this reason, scooters are a great option for users seeking to get out and about, rather than someone seeking a product for use in the home. They are perfect for shopping and other errands, as well as for taking on vacation, even to theme parks or on cruises.
If you have decided that a scooter is right for you, it’s time to select the right one. But with all the different types, sizes and brands, this can be an overwhelming task. Asking these questions is a good way to start is to narrow down your options:

- Does the scooter’s maximum weight capacity comfortably accommodate you?
- Will you use the scooter primarily on smooth, level surfaces or will it be used over rougher outdoor terrain?
- Will you be traveling with your scooter?
- Does the scooter’s seating provide the size and comfort you desire?
- Does the scooter’s performance offer the speed and range you need?
- Does the scooter’s appearance match your style?
- Does the scooter offer additional safety or comfort features that set it apart?

**Tip:** Limited mobility often results in an increase in the user’s weight over time. When choosing a scooter, make sure its weight capacity can comfortably accommodate you both now and down the line.
To help in deciding the type of scooter that best answers these questions for you, we have separated scooters into categories based on their size and primary use:

**COMPACT/TRANSPORTABLE SCOOTERS**

**STANDARD/MIDSIZE SCOOTERS**

**HEAVY DUTY SCOOTERS**
Compact scooters are the smallest and least expensive category of scooter. They can be disassembled quickly and easily into several manageable pieces for transport in a vehicle, eliminating the need for a special vehicle lift or rack. When disassembled, the pieces are lightweight and easy to move, with the heaviest piece ranging from 30-40 lbs. This makes them perfect for loading in the trunk of a car and taking shopping or on vacation.

Portability means these scooters are smaller in size and feature lower weight capacities of between 250 and 300 lbs. These scooters also come equipped with smaller, “stadium-style” seats, rather than the automotive style captain’s seats often found in larger scooters. These scooters also offer a lower top speed and shorter maximum range than larger units which makes them better for shorter trips.
Feature Focus: Some scooters offer interchangeable panels that allow you to change the color of your scooter quickly and easily to match your mood or your outfit!

ADVANTAGES

• Lowest cost
• Disassemble for easy transport in standard vehicles (some strength and dexterity are required)
• Lightweight
• Small size ideal for indoor maneuverability
• Flat-free tires for worry-free travel

DISADVANTAGES

• Not ideal for rough outdoor terrain
• Stadium-style seating less comfortable for long trips
• Limited battery range compared to larger scooters
These scooters offer a great combination of performance, size and comfort that make them a great option for many users. While larger than compact scooters, standard/midsize models are still a good, manageable size for most users.

Standard mobility scooters also include many other comfort and safety-related features, such as suspension for a smoother ride, safety lighting, enhanced seating options and weight capacity between 300 and 350 lbs. The larger batteries found in standard scooters improve range over those found in compact scooters, making them perfect for longer trips around the neighborhood or for errands around town.
**ADVANTAGES**

- Longer battery range than travel scooters
- More comfortable Captain’s seating
- Additional safety features
- Flat-free tires for worry-free travel

**DISADVANTAGES**

- Not ideal for rougher outdoor terrain
- Size not ideal for indoor use
- Do not disassemble for transport, requiring a vehicle lift or special rack

*Specification Spotlight: When considering the scooter’s range, look to the amp hours (AH) of the batteries: the greater the AH, the greater the scooter’s maximum possible range. And keep in mind that each user’s actual range depends on a variety of conditions, such as the user’s weight, the condition of the batteries, and the type of terrain being traveled.*
Boasting weight capacities greater than 350 pounds, this category contains the largest scooters available. Dedicated to outdoor use, heavy-duty scooters have larger, air-filled tires, high ground clearance, long range and a high top speed, making them the best for use on outdoors and on rugged terrain. They also offer Captain’s seating and full suspension for added ride comfort. These scooters are too large and lack maneuverability for indoor use and their weight makes transporting them a challenge.
Accessory Advantage:
There are a number of useful accessories that are sold separately and add functionality and convenience to your scooter. These include oxygen tank carriers, crutch/cane holders, dust covers, sunshades and a variety of carry bags.

ADVANTAGES
• Longest battery range available
• Comfortable Captain’s seating available in choice of widths
• Additional safety features
• Large wheels and high ground clearance for handling outdoor terrain
• Full suspension for more comfortable ride
• Highest weight capacity

DISADVANTAGES
• Highest cost scooter category
• Not for indoor use
• Heavy weight and large size make transport more difficult
Along with choosing the type of scooter to best suit your needs, you’ll need to decide between a 3-wheel or 4-wheel model. Each has its own pros and cons:

**THREE-WHEEL**
Three-wheel scooters are configured with two drive wheels in the back and a single wheel in the front for steering. Three-wheel scooters offer excellent maneuverability versus similar four-wheel models, thanks to their lower turning radius, making them better for indoor use, where nimbly maneuvering around obstacles is a necessity. While they include anti-tip wheels for safety, three-wheel scooters are not quite as stable as four-wheel scooters. They are best used on smooth, level surfaces and not on rougher outdoor terrain like grass or gravel.

Compared to four-wheel models, three-wheel scooters offer more legroom for users who are taller or suffer from knee or leg ailments. Also, three-wheel scooters are lighter in weight and cost less than comparable four-wheel scooters.

**ADVANTAGES**
- Tight turning radius for indoor maneuverability
- Lighter overall weight than four-wheel scooters
- Lower cost than four-wheel scooters
- Greater legroom

**DISADVANTAGES**
- Stability not ideal for rough, outdoor terrain
FOUR-WHEEL

Four-wheel scooters offer improved stability over 3-wheel scooters, making them a better option for users who plan to regularly drive on uneven outdoor terrain.

Four-wheel scooters are configured like an automobile, with two drive wheels at the rear and two wheels for steering at the front. Compared to three-wheel scooters, four-wheel models provide excellent stability over any kind of terrain—indoor or outdoor—by resisting tipping, even at top speed, and safely handling hills and curbs. Four-wheel stability is excellent for users who may suffer from poor balance.

Because the four-wheel configuration increases the scooter’s turning radius, these scooters do give up some maneuverability, making them less desirable for primarily indoor use. However, smaller four-wheel scooters do still offer a turning radius that allows the user to perform most indoor functions. Four-wheel scooters are also slightly heavier and cost more than comparable three-wheel units.

ADVANTAGES

• Great overall stability, including on outdoor terrain

DISADVANTAGES

• Larger turning radius limits indoor maneuverability
A QUICK WORD
ABOUT POWER WHEELCHAIRS

Power wheelchairs are battery-powered, motorized versions of the standard manual wheelchair and are ideal when the user is unable to propel a manual chair or does not have someone who is able to help in pushing a manual chair. Power chairs range from traditional style units that look very similar to manual chairs to a “power base” style that consists of a seat mounted atop a platform that houses the chair’s batteries and drive system.

Power wheelchairs differ from their mobility scooter cousins in that they are primarily prescribed by physicians for users who require full-time mobility assistance where mobility scooters are mainly purchased by individuals who require only occasional or part-time mobility help. Many power chairs are Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance eligible if your physician determines one is necessary for you. Consult your doctor for details.
Ready for a scooter?

Drive Medical has the perfect scooter—or power wheelchair—to fit your needs. And, if you are a Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance subscriber, you may qualify for one of our power mobility product at little or no cost to you!

For more information, or to take a test drive and experience the freedom a power mobility product can offer, contact or visit your local Drive Medical provider today.

**Tip:** Drive offers a Peace of Mind (POM) product protection plan on all scooters. This plan provides warranty parts and service on your scooter for up to 14 months. Peace of Mind is a great way to ensure your product stays up and running well after the purchase.
DON’T MISS A MOMENT OF ALL LIFE HAS TO OFFER.

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