

Motorized Scooters and Wheelchairs

FACT
sheet

What you should know about getting around

Today, many people like you have come to realize the value of re-gaining a new sense of freedom in their lifestyle. This freedom enables people to travel just like other pedestrians, everyday. Now you can go for fresh air, go shopping, go to the library, or even go to watch your grandchildren play outdoors. This new mobility is possible with today's motorized scooters and wheelchairs.

Use your new transport to expand your horizons. The more you use it the more you'll realize how good it is to get outdoors and enjoy many of the wonderful activities in your community.

As with all things today, observing a few rules will ensure your safety and the safety of those around you. Along with this new sense of freedom, comes a new set of responsibilities for you.



- Ride on the sidewalk. Don't ride on the roadway if there is a sidewalk on either side of the road or highway.
- If there's no sidewalk, then travel on the extreme left side of the roadway or shoulder of the highway facing oncoming traffic.
 - Obey all traffic control devices.
 - Obey school crossing guards and school traffic patrols.
 - Cross only at intersections or wherever there is a crosswalk.
 - Don't leave a curb or other place of safety if traffic cannot safely stop for you.

Safety tips

Use courtesy and think safety, your motorized wheelchair is a heavy piece of equipment, and as such can injure others besides yourself in the event of a mishap or collision.

Make yourself visible:

- Wear a brightly coloured jacket or fluorescent safety vest.
- Attach a brightly coloured flag or pennant to an aerial on your motorized wheelchair.
- Avoid travelling at night, it's better to plan your trip for daylight hours, so that in the event of a mishap, others can see your need for assistance.

Rules of the road

A motorized wheelchair used for the purpose for which it was designed does not require registration, vehicle licence, driver's licence or vehicle insurance.

It's important you follow the same rules of the road that apply to pedestrians:

Always carry personal identification and a contact name, in case of any emergency.

Operate your motorized wheelchair only after reading the instruction manual.

Avoid using your motorized wheelchair if you are taking any medication, drugs or alcohol that may affect your skills or judgment.

Take care when operating your motorized wheelchair:

- Drive at the same speed as other pedestrian traffic.
- When passing other pedestrians from behind, use proper care and use a bell or horn to warn them of your approach.
- If you're travelling with another motorized wheelchair operator, travel in single file, not side-by-side.
- Avoid sudden turns at the higher speeds.
- Always proceed carefully as you approach the downgrade of a ramp or hill.
- Look ahead — watch for bumps and uneven surfaces, and slow down or try to avoid them.
- Slow down when approaching curbs and ramps, and avoid approaching them at an angle.
- Be extra cautious of possible traffic as you approach driveways and laneways.
- Always keep your feet on the platform or foot-rests.
- Mount or dismount only when the brake is engaged.

Remember, a motorized wheelchair is safe when only one person is riding it.



For more information on the safe use of motorized scooters and wheelchairs, please contact your local dealer or your local ICBC regional road safety/loss prevention office.

For contact information and more road safety tips, visit www.icbc.com.

This publication reflects the laws in British Columbia as of November 2006. You should be aware that laws might change from time to time, so for a current statement of the law, you should refer to the applicable legislation. In the case of any conflict between this publication and the legislation, you should always follow the legislation.

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