



Should I have the installation inspected or certified?

Lifts and elevators in private residences are not regulated by any provincial or municipal authority. Protect yourself by asking for these two things as a minimum:

- **Code compliance certificates for the equipment**
- **Code compliance certificates for installation:** This letter or affidavit will ensure that the installer had installed the equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and meets all the code requirements

What is the recommended maintenance schedule for my device?

Lifts and residential elevators are mechanical devices that can break down and therefore need regular maintenance. Maintenance is generally complex and should be done by an expert. The manufacturer must give you a recommended maintenance schedule, which may be in the form of a manual.

Is my contractor (or the one they provide) licensed and/or experienced with this type of installation?

- Ask for estimates from at least three different suppliers/contractors in order to assess a reasonable charge for installation
- Ask them if they will provide (and sign off on) an affidavit stating that the work they have performed meets the Canadian standards
- Contact the BC Safety Authority to check if they are licensed

Do I need a building permit to install the device?

Contact your municipal office and ask a building inspector about safety standards, licensing and inspection for residential lifts and elevators.

Get To Know Us

At the British Columbia Safety Authority we keep people safe. As the province's delegated authority, we mandate the safe installation and use of technical equipment. We are a not-for-profit that administers safety standards through education, and through issuing permits and licences. We also enforce compliance to standards to ensure consistency and fairness, and conduct onsite inspections – particularly in high risk situations.

British Columbia Safety Authority



For more detailed information on purchasing, installing, or maintaining your device, contact the BC Safety Authority:

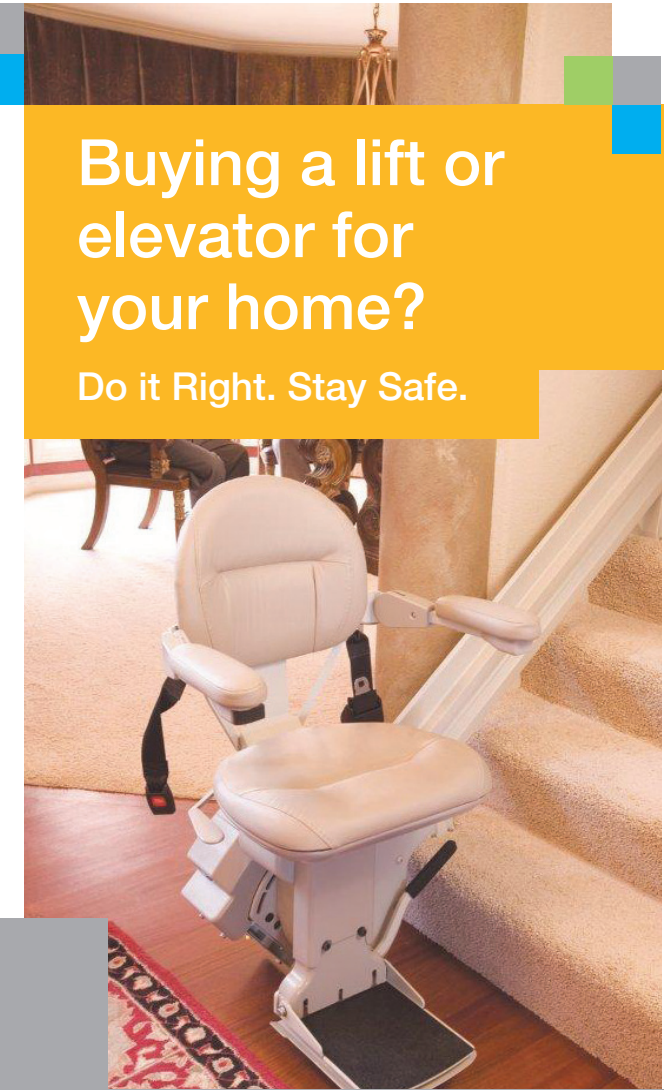
British Columbia Safety Authority
Corporate Office
505 - 6th Street, Suite 200
New Westminster, BC, V3L 0E1

Toll Free 1.866.566.7233

www.safetyauthority.ca/home-elevators
info@safetyauthority.ca

Buying a lift or elevator for your home?

Do it Right. Stay Safe.

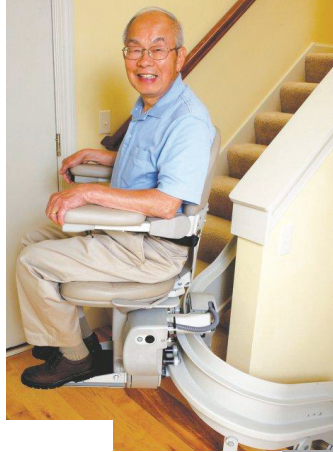


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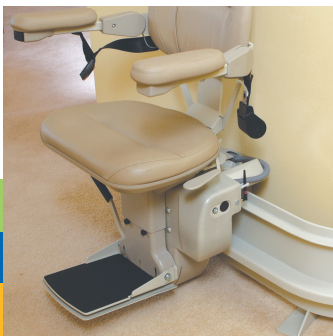
Introduction

Installing a residential lift or elevator can give you the peace of mind and flexibility you need as your strength and mobility changes. However, the quality of the device or installation can affect your safety and sometimes the value of your home. Take the steps necessary to stay safe.



BC Safety Standards

- Although the BC Safety Authority does not directly regulate the installation of these devices, the manufacturing, installation and maintenance of the devices must be completed according to Canadian Standards Association code to ensure the safety of users



Where do I start?

1. Research local medical equipment suppliers who offer lifts and residential elevators.
 - Ask friends and professionals for recommendations and contact the Better Business Bureau to ensure the supplier is in good standing
2. Arrange for a home visit.
 - A home visit is highly recommended. Most contractors offer no charge on site assessment. If possible, arrange for a health professional, such as an occupational therapist, to be present for the site visit. They can help ensure that the type of device being recommended will meet your current and future needs

Questions to ask before Purchasing or Installing a Device

What kind of device will best suit my current and future needs?

- Vertical Platform Lift (Enclosed or Unenclosed)
- Incline Platform Lift (Curved or Straight)
- Stair Chair Lift (Curved or Straight)
- Residential Elevator

If I am purchasing a used device, how can I ensure that it is safe to install/use?

Some used devices can pose a safety risk. In order to ensure you reduce that risk, have the device inspected by a licensed contractor before you purchase or install it.

Is the device manufactured according to the most recent Canadian codes?

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Lifts for Persons with Physical Disabilities | CAN/CSA-B355 |
| Private Residence Lifts for Persons with Physical Disabilities | CAN/CSA-B613 |
| Private Residence Elevators | CAN/CSA-B44 SEC 5.3 |
| Private Residence Inclined Elevators | CAN/CSA-B44 SEC 5.4 |

What safety features should my device have?

- **Doors & Gates:** All vertical lifts should be equipped with a door/gate at each landing
- **Interlock Mechanisms on Doors & Gates:** This device prevents operation of the drive unit unless the door or gate on the landing is locked in the closed position
- **Controls:** All lifts are required to have constant pressure controls, elevators can have one touch controls. It is dangerous to have automatic operation on unenclosed platforms and lifts
- **Stopping Devices:** Stopping devices stop the lift at landings and in some cases when the lift travels beyond its normal landings.
- **Safeties:** Safeties stop the lift and hold it in position in the event of suspension or drive failure
- **A Manual System:** this is necessary in case of a power outage or a mechanical malfunction
- **Safety Edges/Surfaces:** Where potential shearing (cutting), crushing, trapping or abrading hazard exists the lift should be equipped with safety edges, surfaces or sensors
- **Safe Platforms:** including handrails, proper lighting and a smooth platform surface
- **Communication:** An emergency telephone or other communication system in case of emergency or entrapment
- **General Design:** The equipment should be designed in a way that protects the user and anyone nearby from falling, tripping or physical shock