

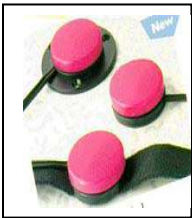
Switch Access

A switch is a piece of equipment that allows an individual to operate a range of technology using a consistent and reliable body movement.

Switches may be beneficial for people who have very minimal movements of their limbs or difficulties controlling the movement of their limbs. Parts of the body that can be used to activate a switch include, but are not limited to, the head, arms or feet.

THE BASICS OF SWITCHES

Switches come in all shapes, sizes and styles and must be carefully matched to meet the needs of the user. Here are some of the basic features to consider when comparing switches:



Switch Style:

There are two types of switches available:

- **Mechanical** switches have a moving component to the switch that activates the circuit
- **Non-Mechanical** switches do not have a moving component. These are activated via touch, proximity, pressure change, magnetic fields, sound, or infrared signals.



Size and surface area:

Switch plate size varies between switches. The appropriate size of switch plate for a client will depend on how accurately they can target the switches and which body part they are using to press the switch. A bigger surface area is not necessarily easier to access.



Pressure:

Some switches need a greater amount of pressure applied to activate. This is important for clients if they can only apply a small amount of pressure. It is also important that the switch is not too sensitive to avoid accidental mishits.

Play:

The play of a switch plate refers to the amount of “jiggle” on the switch plate, allowing you to activate the switch from any direction on the plate.



This may be important for users who have difficulty targeting a switch accurately, a large play may allow a user to rest on a part of the switch without activating the switch.



Switch Mounting System:

Frequently the switch will need to be mounted on a wheelchair, table, chair, etc in a position to maximise access by the user. Consideration on optimum positioning
Durability and minimal obstruction should be given to this.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

Telephone, fax or e-mail your enquiry to obtain further information from one of the therapists about products. Alternatively, you can make an appointment to trial the equipment at our display centres or through our outreach service. Please phone LifeTec for further details.